

WHAT WOULD
BLAIKE THINK
OF ME NOW?

WOULD HE
TRULY...

**NOAH NEARLY DIED
FOR YOUR BOREDOM!**

I DIDN'T
EVEN ASK
WHAT
HAPPENED.

I KNEW
NOAH WAS
OKAY NOW, BUT
TO JUST BRUSH
PAST THAT...

HE'S ADRIAN'S
ADOPTED SON!
HE'S FAMILY!

A STRAY
DOG.

NOT OUR BLOOD.

I LET THE MAN RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE UNWAKING WOLF FIGHT
ADRIAN! HOW COULD I HAVE
LET HIM ANYWHERE NEAR...?!

HE NEEDED
TO LEARN.

WE DIDN'T
KNOW WHO
WOULD WIN!

I TRIED
TO MAKE
EDWARD
MURDER
SOMEONE...

THE WIZARD
DESERVES
DEATH!

EDWARD
ABANDONED
ADRIAN!

KEPT HIM
FROM HIS
GODSON!

TEDD.

I TOLD SARAH TO
TELL TEDD EVERYTHING
I'VE TOLD HER. I DIDN'T
EVEN CONSIDER HOW
HE'LL FEEL ABOUT...

TEDD!



THE GOOD OF MAGIC
WOULD VASTLY OUTWEIGH
THE BAD IF PEOPLE COULD
DEFEND AGAINST IT!



I'M GOING TO
FIND A WAY TO
SAFELY INCREASE
EVERYONE'S MAGIC
RESISTANCE...

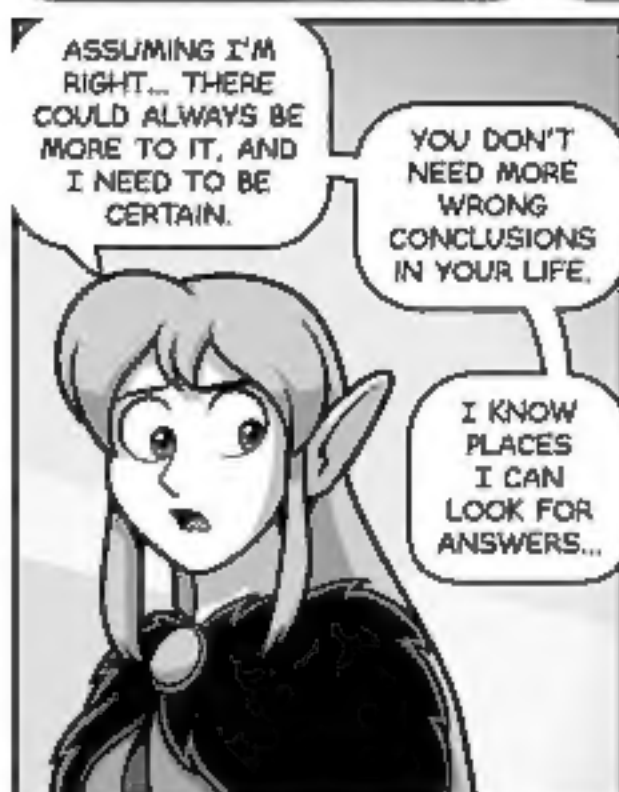


...AND MAKE
MAGIC AVAILABLE
TO *EVERYONE!*



MAGIC HAS
NOT BEEN KIND
TO YOU.







IT'S ALMOST FINALLY TIME. I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE NOT MORE EXCITED.



IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

OF COURSE SOMETHING IS BOTHERING ME. THIS PLAN INVOLVES ABERRATIONS. MORE ABERRATIONS. WE'VE ALREADY SENT SO MANY...

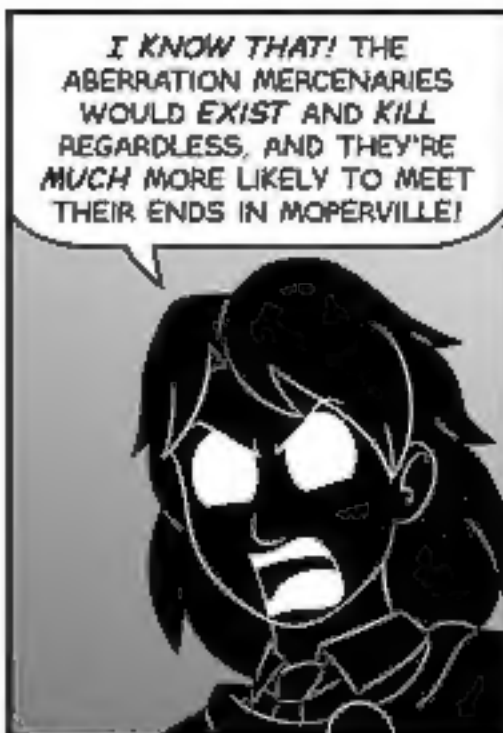
THIS IS YOUR PLAN.

Sirleek

Magus

Body snatcher aberration / vampire. Only perceivable in the spirit plane of reality while with a host. Bribed a security guard to help Elliot and Tedd reach the Dewitchery Diamond after being threatened by Pandora on Magus's behalf. Needs a new host to replace current old and unhealthy, but very rich, host.

From another universe. Trapped between spirit and physical planes. Can amplify people's emotions, and did so to get Tedd to transform Elliot, eventually resulting in Ellen's creation. Was allied with Pandora up until refusing to make Tedd's father angry enough to kill the creator of the Dewitchery Diamond.

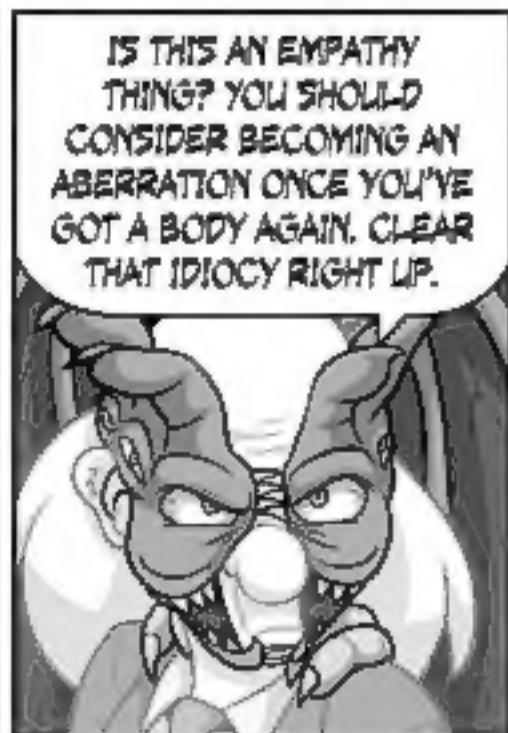


I KNOW THAT! THE ABERRATION MERCENARIES WOULD EXIST AND KILL REGARDLESS, AND THEY'RE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO MEET THEIR ENDS IN MOPERVILLE!



AND YOUR PROBLEM IS...?

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYONE THEY HURT WHILE IN MOPERVILLE!



IS THIS AN EMPATHY THING? YOU SHOULD CONSIDER BECOMING AN ABERRATION ONCE YOU'VE GOT A BODY AGAIN. CLEAR THAT IDIOCY RIGHT UP.

The next morning (a Monday morning)...

OKAY. REMEMBER.
SIMULATED TIME STOP.
NOT REAL. THERE IS
NO SPOON!



YES! AH-HAHA!



I'M GOING TO HAVE
SO MUCH TROUBLE
CONCENTRATING IN
CLASS TODAY...

I WONDER HOW
HARD IT WOULD BE
TO FLY AROUND
THE CAFETERIA...







Tedd's probably going to be in a bad mood tomorrow. He probably won't want to talk about it, but I can explain later, okay? Just please be extra nice to him.



Not that you wouldn't be nice to him! I mean, EXTRA nice. This is like a Susan "red alert" situation, but for Tedd.

Crap, it's probably a red alert for Susan, too? Grace told me about the sister stuff. Maybe just be extra nice in general?

I'll be nice, too, of course. Not trying to be bossy. Sorry. I'm just worried is all.



Elliot, I know you forget to check your messages when you're at home and your phone's not in your pocket, but I swear, if we get to school and you haven't even READ these yet...! >:({



Hi. Sorry. I know Sarah's already messaging you, but I wanted to emphasize that Tedd might need hugs tomorrow even if he's not ready to talk about why.



Maybe not literal hugs in public? Definitely not cuddles, I don't think I've seen you two cuddle, which is weird, but not important right now. *Metaphorical* hugs and cuddles, please.



TEDD'S REALLY UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.

I KNOW. I'VE GOT A BUNCH OF MISSED TEXTS ABOUT YOUR TEXTS ABOUT IT.



Last Friday night



Monday morning, the present





TEDD'S REALLY UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING. AND SUSAN'S GOT THIS WHOLE "MAYBE-SISTER" THING..

I'VE GOT TO GET MY OWN STUFF TOGETHER IF I'M NOT GOING TO DROP THE BALL ON BEING THERE FOR THEM.



FOR ALL MY TALK WITH ELLEN, MY SITUATION'S EASY A DAY OR TWO OF TALK, MOST LIKELY BEHIND MY BACK..

..AND THEN THAT FAKE CHEERLEADER SIGHTING TEDD'S DAD IS SETTING UP SOLVES ALMOST EVERYTHING.



REALLY THE ONLY REASON I NEED TO BOTHER WITH ANYTHING IS TO MAKE THE NEXT FEW DAYS EASIER FOR ASHLEY

THE ONLY PERSON I MIGHT TALK TO ABOUT SATURDAY WHO I CAN'T TELL EVERYTHING TO IS CATALINA!

PLEASE GOD. DON'T LET CATALINA ASK ME ANYTHING.



WITH EVERYONE ELSE, I CAN JUST ACT ANNOYED!

YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT? THE HELL AM I EVEN SUPPOSED TO SAY TO THAT? IT'S STUPID.



MAYBE GET OFFENDED ABOUT THE "TURNING INTO A GIRL" THING?

YOU THINK I TURN INTO A GIRL? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!



I DON'T GET WHY ANYONE WOULD BE OFFENDED ABOUT PEOPLE THINKING THEY MIGHT TURN INTO A COOL FLYING SUPER HEROINE

..BUT I'M PRETTY SURE BEING COOL WITH IT WOULD MAKE PEOPLE WAY MORE SUSPICIOUS.

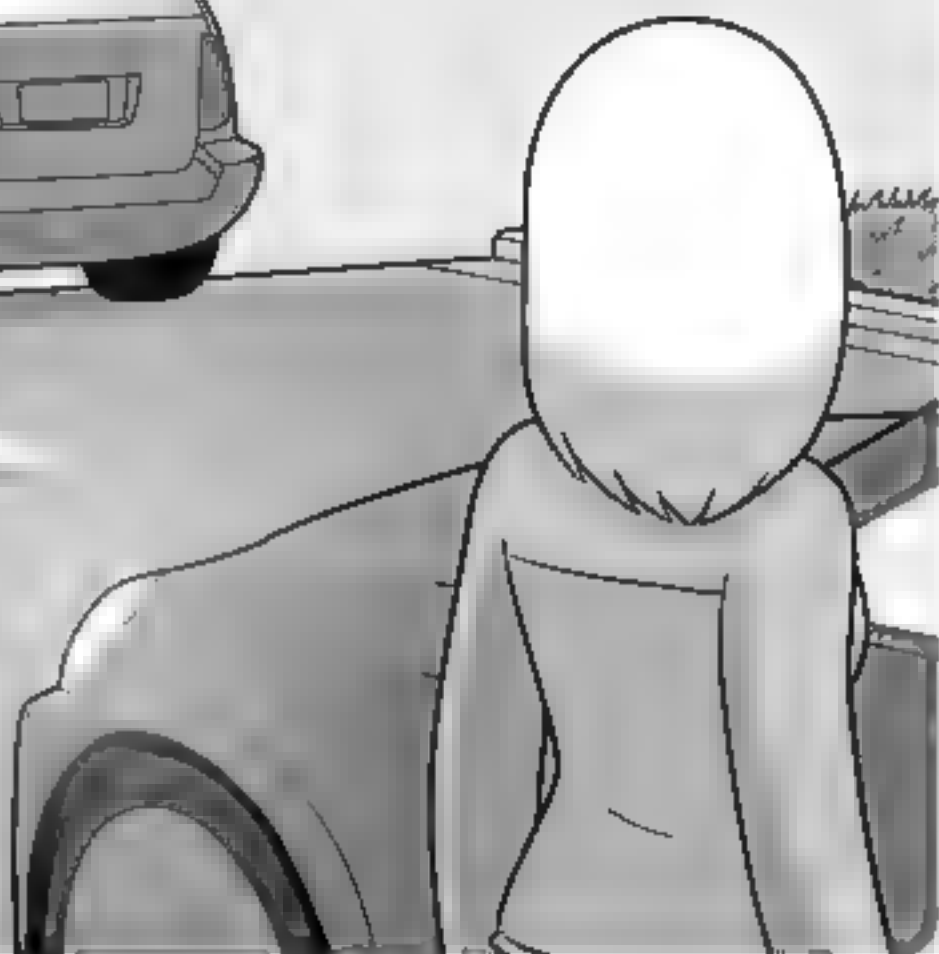
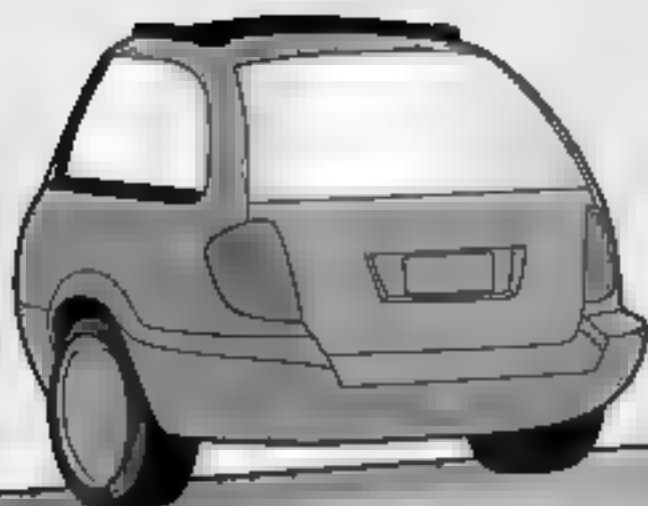


HRM.

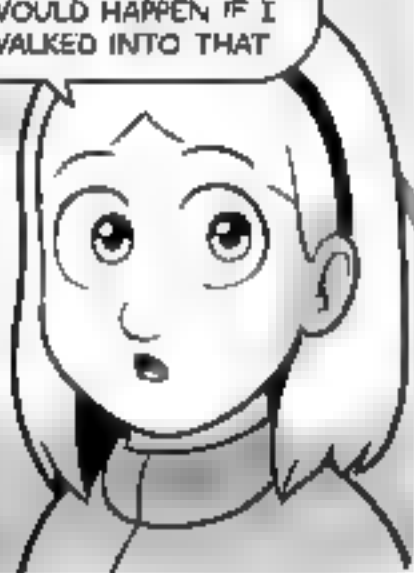
I DON'T THINK
I LIKE USING THIS
SPELL OUTSIDE



IT'S WEIRD
SEEING THE END
OF THE WORLD.



I WONDER WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN IF I
WALKED INTO THAT



YEAH I'M
NOT DOING
THAT





NO WAY
IS YOUR DAY
GOING TO BE
MORE AWKWARD
THAN MINE

I HAVE TO
TELL DIANE THAT
SUSAN'S WILLING
TO MEET HER,
AND THAT OH
YEAH, THEY'RE
MORE LIKELY
HALF SISTERS
THAN TWINS!

I'M NOT SAYING THAT'S NOT AWKWARD! THAT'S
VERY AWKWARD. BUT YOU HAVE NANASE WITH
YOU, AND YOU KNOW SHE'LL TAKE THE
LEAD ON THAT



MEANWHILE...
I'M GOING TO
BE DEALING WITH
RUMORS ABOUT
ME BEING
CHEERLEADRA!



WHICH
NOBODY'S
GOING TO TAKE
SERIOUSLY I
MEAN, COME ON.
MAYBE YOU GET
TEASED A LITTLE,
AND THAT'S IF
ANYONE'S BRAVE
ENOUGH.

YOU'RE
THE WEIRD
SCARY MARTIAL
ARTS GUY
REMEMBER?



EVEN IF SOME
PEOPLE DID THINK
THAT, I'VE BEEN
DOING THE MOVIE
REVIEW SHOW
WITH SUSAN!

I'VE WORN
FUNNY HATS
ON CAMERA! I'M
NOT SCARING
ANYONE!



FUNNY
HATS CAN
BE SCARY

ALSO, I HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT MY COVER STORY
WITH ASHLEY! AND I GO TO
SCHOOL WITH SUSAN SO
SOME OF YOUR AWKWARDNESS
IS MY AWKWARDNESS!



OKAY, OKAY! YOUR
DAY'S PROBABLY GOING
TO BE MORE AWKWARD!
CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK
YOU!



TEDD'S
BEEN SUPER
QUIET THIS
MORNING.

I GUESS SARAH DID SAY
HE MIGHT NOT WANT TO
TALK ABOUT WHATEVER IT
IS THAT'S BUGGING HIM.

ALTHOUGH... SOMETIMES I
REALLY WANT TO SAY SOME-
THING BUT WON'T UNLESS
SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING
TO GIVE ME AN OPENING...

I'LL
STEALTH
NINJA
ASK

YOU OKAY DUDE?
YOU SEEM REALLY TIRED
OR SOMETHING.

I AM ONE WITH
THE SHADOWS.

THERE'S
STUFF GOING
ON.

WAIT WHAT?!

WE'LL TALK
ABOUT IT LATER.
OKAY?

TALK LATER. RIGHT GOOD THAT'S
GOOD. LATER IS GOOD FOR THAT BUT
CAN WE QUICKLY AND DISCRETELY
GO UPSTAIRS TO A PRIVATE AREA
TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING?

WHAT--

JUST A QUICK
CHAT NOTHING
SERIOUS

LET'S
GO



SERIOUSLY
ELLIOT
WHY ARE
WE ALL THE
WAY OVER
HERE?

IT'S WHERE I
ASKED ASHLEY
OUT

THERE'S
ALMOST NO
ONE UP HERE
BEFORE
CLASS.



OKAY,
WELL, YOU
KNOW I AM
SPOKEN FOR.
RIGHT?

OTHER PEOPLE
MIGHT NOT NOTICE.
BUT I CAN TELL
THE DIFFERENCE



I KNOW WHAT
YOU SOUND LIKE
WHEN YOU'RE
A GIRL.



OH.

UH...



DID YOU
FORGET
YOU WERE
TRANSFORMED
AGAIN?

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE
WEARING A WATCH THAT'LL
MAKE IT EASY TO SWITCH
BACK BEFORE GYM CLASS



NO. AND... I'M
WEARING AN UNDER-
SHIRT IT'S NOT
LIKE ANYONE'S
GOING TO TAKE A
CLOSE LOOK.

A CLOSE... YOU DID
THIS ON PURPOSE? AND YOU
DIDN'T BRING A WATCH?



I DON'T
NEED
ANYTHING.
LAST I
CHECKED
ANYWAY

I... JUST
NEED TO
FIGURE OUT
WHAT I'D
RATHER BE
STUCK AS.
IF

IF I
HAD TO
CHOOSE













THIS IS NOT THE
MOST SECURE PLACE
TO BE HAVING THIS
DISCUSSION,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
LEIFELD...



WE DON'T NEED
TO SAY ANYTHING
SPECIFIC, ARTHUR.
WE BOTH KNOW
WHAT WE'RE
TALKING ABOUT



I SUPPOSE...



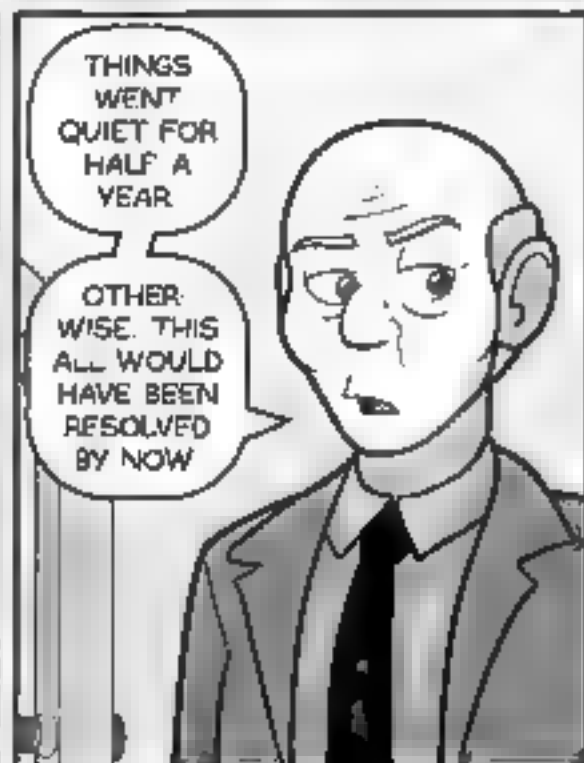
YOU ASSURED
ME THAT YOUR
METHODS WOULD
NATURALLY SOLVE
THE PROBLEM.
THAT WAS
MONTHS AGO

NOW WE'VE HAD
ANOTHER MAJOR
PUBLIC INCIDENT
AND WE'RE
MAKING ANOTHER
MINOR INCIDENT
TO COVER UP
PART OF IT



THINGS
WENT
QUIET FOR
HALF A
YEAR

OTHER-
WISE, THIS
ALL WOULD
HAVE BEEN
RESOLVED
BY NOW



SO YOU'RE
SAYING THIS
LATEST F.A.S.C.O
IS GOOD FOR
YOUR PLAN?

REMIN-
D ME WHY
I AGREED
TO YOUR
PROPOSAL?

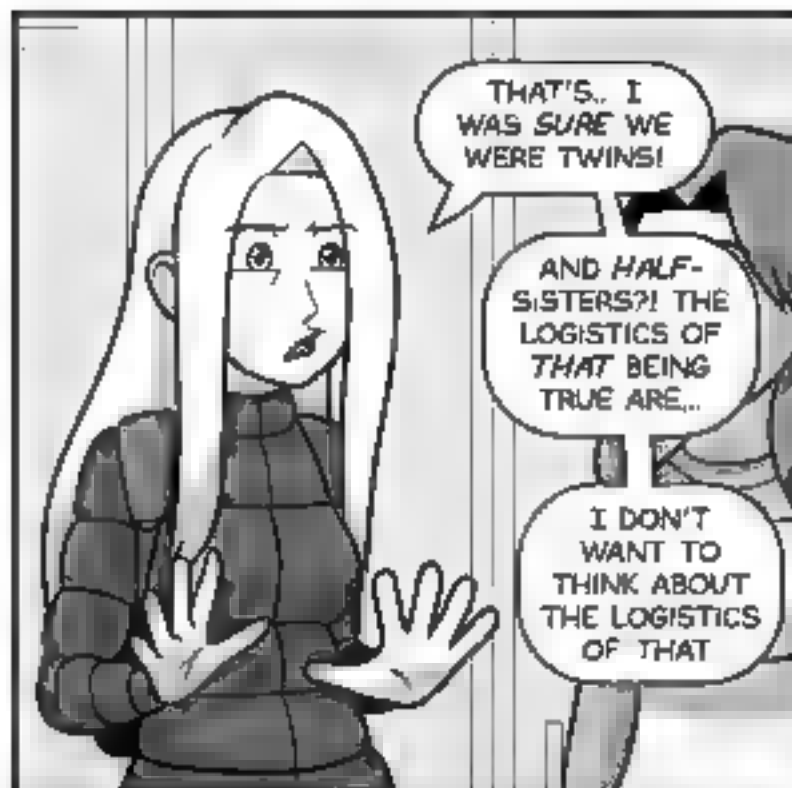


BECAUSE THE NEXT INCIDENT
COULD BE THE LAST STRAW
AND THAT WOULD SOLVE THE
PROBLEM FOR DECADES.



MSHS, Around the time Elliot was talking with Tedd...





FRIDAY I'M SUPPOSED TO WORK
FRIDAY BUT I IMAGINE TENGSAIDED WILL
JUST MAKE AN INAUDIBLE SQUEE NOISE
AND INSIST I TAKE THE DAY OFF IF I
MENTION A LONG LOST SISTER.



SO YOU'RE
GOING TO
MEET HER?

WHATEVER THE TRUTH IS,
JERRY'S REGENERATION BELIEVES
WE'RE RELATED AND THERE'S THE
ABERRATIONS TO CONSIDER.



SHE SAID
YES.

SHE DID? WHAT
EXACTLY DID SHE SAY?



"YES"

SO THAT BLUNTNESS
ON HER REVIEW SHOW
ISN'T AN ACT



OH. SHE'S WAY
MORE BLUNT IN
PERSON.

YOU'RE
JOKING.



SHE'S ACTUALLY
WEIRDLY CHEERFUL
ON CAMERA.

AND SHE KEEPS
SMILING! THAT
CAMERA DOES WEIRD
THINGS TO HER.



I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS PLANNING TO CAST OFF SUSPICION ABOUT ME BEING CHEERLEADRA BY TAKING OFFENSE TO THE IDEA OF TURNING INTO A GIRL.

I'M NOT OFFENDED BY IT, I DO IT REGULARLY, AND IT'D BE THROWING TEDD. AND ANYONE LIKE TEDD, UNDER THE BUS!

AN EXPRESSION I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT'S ABOUT SACRIFICING SOMEONE FOR YOUR OWN GAIN. BUT WHY A BUS? WHAT'S GAINED BY

NOT IMPORTANT!
I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT ANY CASE!

IN FACT, IF ANYONE MAKES FUN OF ME BECAUSE OF CHEERLEADRA, I'M GOING TO ASK THEM WHAT WOULD BE WRONG WITH TURNING INTO CHEERLEADRA!

I'LL PUT THEM RIGHT ON THE SPOT! MAKE THEM EXPLAIN WHAT'D BE SO AWFUL ABOUT BEING ABLE TO TURN INTO A BADASS GIRL SUPER HERO!

Many Hours Later

BRING IT ON, YOU JERKS. FIRST ONE OF YOU WHO MAKES A WISE CRACK ABOUT ME BEING CHEERLEADRA IS GOING TO REGRET

NOBODY'S SAID ANYTHING TO ME TODAY ABOUT CHEERLEADRA.

OF COURSE NOT YOU'RE THE SCARY MARTIAL ARTS GUY

I OVERHEARD PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT
CHEERLEADRA A FEW TIMES. BUT I DIDN'T
HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT YOU

WELL,
SORT OF

"SORT OF"?
WHAT'CHOO TALKIN'
'BOUT SARAH?

I HEARD YOUR
NAME A COUPLE
TIMES, BUT ONE
TIME WAS JUST
YOUR FIRST
NAME. AND IT
WAS NOTHING
LIKE "HEY THAT'S
THAT GUY WHAT
WITH THE REVIEW
SHOW AND SCARY
MARTIAL ARTS"

HUH I GUESS... MAYBE
PEOPLE AREN'T MAKING THE
CONNECTION TO ME?

NOBODY I
OVERHEARD
ANYWAY

DIDN'T YOU
MEET A BUNCH
OF PEOPLE
WHO WATCH
MY REVIEW
SHOW? THEY
MUST'VE SAID
SOMETHING.

YEAH,
UM. I'M
GUESSING YOU
DON'T SAY
YOUR LAST
NAME ON
YOUR REVIEW
SHOW MUCH?

...NOBODY
ACTUALLY KNOWS
MY NAME. DO
THEY

THEY KNOW
YOUR FIRST NAME!
MOSTLY ONE GUY
CALLS YOU DAVE



OKAY YEAH.
I'M STARTING
TO FEEL SILLY
FOR WORRYING
ABOUT THIS..

DON'T FEEL TOO
SILLY—IT'S NOT LIKE I
WAS EAVESDROPPING ON
EVERYONE AND THERE'S
STILL THE COMMENTS
ON YOUR VIDEOS



COMMENTS? WHAT COMMENTS?

SUSAN FOUND A THREAD IN THAT MESS
OF COMMENTS ON YOUR MOST RECENT VIDEO
IT STARTED WITH A JOKE ABOUT YOU HAVING
THE SAME NAME AS CHEERLEADER AND KINDA
SNOWBALLED FROM THERE



HOW MANY
COMMENTS
ARE THERE
ABOUT IT?

I'M NOT
SURE MAYBE
ABOUT A
DOZEN WHEN
WE CHECKED
IT?



CRAP.

THAT'S REALLY
NOT THAT MANY IT WAS
PRETTY MUCH JUST JOKING
AROUND TOO



THEN WHY SHOULDN'T
I FEEL SILLY?

BECAUSE YOU'RE
YOU AND THIS
PROBABLY WON'T BE
THE LAST TIME YOU
HAVE TO DO THE
CHEERLEADER THING.
PEOPLE MIGHT TAKE IT
MORE SERIOUSLY
NEXT TIME



ASSUMING
MAGIC DOESN'T
CHANGE

HEY WE
DON'T KNOW
HOW MAJOR
THE CHANGES
WOULD BE

MAYBE YOU'D
JUST GET
A COSTUME
WITH YOUR
NAME ON IT!



IS HE GAY COMMENT,
IS HE GAY COMMENT
IS HE GAY COMMENT
**CHEERLEADRA
COMMENT!**



"CHEERLEADRA
AT THE MALL" ..
"ELLIOT DUNKEL" ..
"MAYBE THEY'RE
ONE PERSON
WINK"

FOLLOWED BY A JOKE COMMENT,
ANOTHER JOKE COMMENT AND.
YEAH, THEY TOTALLY KNOW YOU'RE
CHEERLEADRA, ELLIOT GENIUS.



WAIT

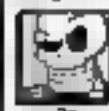


We re talking about a
super hero fighting a
griffin Is Cheerleadra
being Elliot any crazier?



THAT ..
COULD
STILL BE
JOKING.

IF IT IS, THEY'RE
JERKS FOR NOT DOING
THE WINK THING.



Don't say stuff like that. Someone might
take it seriously. Elliot's not a weirdo

I WOULDN'T SAY "WEIRDO"



That s why they broke up! Elliot's gay
and dresses up like a cheerleader!

PROBABLY
JOKING?



Shut the F@#\$! up. Elliot's not a f@#\$! **DUDE!**



You KNOW he is Why else
wouldn't he be banging Su

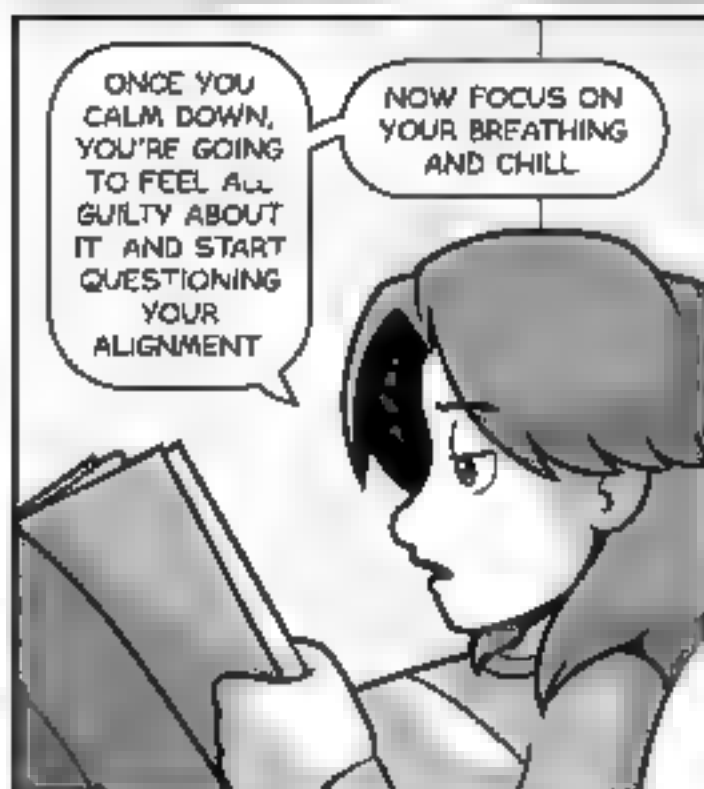
WHAT.



SOMEONE
SOMEWHERE, IS
BECOMING FURIOUS
OVER INTERNET
COMMENTS..

YOU
CAN
SENSE
THAT?

NO IT'S
JUST A
CONSTANT
OF OUR
UNIVERSE



I HAD NO IDEA THEY WERE DOING THE CHEERLEADERA DECOY THING TODAY! I FIGURED YOUR DAD WOULD GIVE ME A HEADS UP ABOUT IT!

I BET THEY WANTED YOU TO THINK THAT THEY DIDN'T WANT YOU LOOKING LIKE YOU WERE WAITING FOR SOME THING TO HAPPEN.

YEAH, WELL, SURPRISE MADE ME THIS CLOSE TO BLURTING OUT "BUT I'M RIGHT HERE"

IT'S LUCKY I WAS MID-GRUMBLE.

AT LEAST IT WORKED! I MEAN, I ASSUME IT DID. HAVE YOU CHECKED THE COMMENTS SINCE THEN?

NO. YOU CAN TELL BECAUSE STEAM ISN'T SHOOTING OUT OF MY EARS.

WELL, I'M SURE--

MEREOW! MEREOW!

CRAP I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. THAT'S JEREMY'S "I DEMAND FOOD" MEOW

THOSE COMMENTS REALLY MADE YOU MAD, HUH?

FACE PUNCHINGLY MAD. SO MANY PEOPLE ARE BIGOTED JERKS!

ELLIOT, HOW DID YOU REACT THE FIRST TIME YOU SAW TEDD AS A GIRL?

UH...



WHY IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT IS DECENT AND GOOD IN THIS UNIVERSE DID YOU TURN YOURSELF INTO A GIRL?!

OKAY I MIGHT'VE SAID SOMETHING THEN I WOULDN'T SAY NOW, BUT I DIDN'T GET WHY HE'D DO IT BACK THEN OTHER THAN... Y'KNOW



TEDD USED TO SAY A LOT OF INAPPROPRIATE THINGS!



YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND SOMETHING, AND YOUR CONCLUSIONS WERE BASED ON WHAT YOU KNEW AT THE TIME

YOU MEANT NO HARM BY IT BUT YOU STILL SAID SOME THING HURTFUL.



YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING THAT--



I'M NOT SO NAÏVE AS TO SUGGEST THAT IT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYONE IN THOSE COMMENTS.

SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE BIGOTED JERKS WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER AND AREN'T GOING TO CHANGE



WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT THERE ARE ALSO PEOPLE WHO SIMPLY DON'T UNDERSTAND, AND ARE MORE CONFUSED THAN MALICIOUS.

THERE'S HOPE FOR THEM TO LEARN.



AND RAGING AT THEM LIKE I'M THE GUY WITH THE PROBLEM ISN'T GOING TO HELP WITH THAT...



I WAS JUST TRYING TO POINT OUT A REASON TO BE HOPEFUL FOR THE FUTURE.

HEY IT'S HARD TO MAKE ME INTROSPECTIVE TAKE THE WIN.



Meanwhile, in Egypt



A specific place in Egypt, mind you



Egypt is certainly not just sand and ancient tombs



Granted, this place is very tomb-like



◁WHAT
MORTAL THINKS
THEMSELVES
WORTHY OF MY
COUNSEL?>

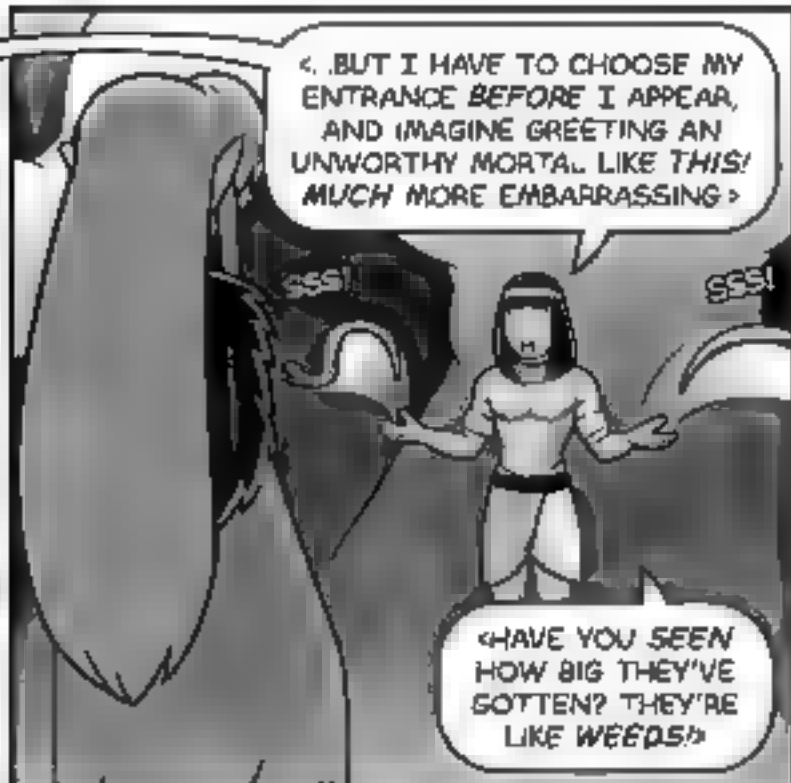




«FORGIVE THE
INTRUSION. HEKA,
BUT I AM NO
MORTAL.»



«YEAH. I FIGURED
YOU'D BE A FAIRY
ONLY FAIRIES SEEM
TO FIND THEIR
WAY HERE.»



«...BUT I HAVE TO CHOOSE MY
ENTRANCE BEFORE I APPEAR,
AND IMAGINE GREETING AN
UNWORTHY MORTAL LIKE THIS!
MUCH MORE EMBARRASSING.»

«HAVE YOU SEEN
HOW BIG THEY'VE
GOTTEN? THEY'RE
LIKE WEEDS.»



«WHAT MORTAL
COULD EVEN
KNOW THIS
LANGUAGE?»

«ONE WORTHY
OF THE LIBRARY
OF COURSE! ON
THAT NOTE...»



«THE LIBRARY
AND ITS CONTENTS
ARE ENTWINED IN
MORTAL DESTINY.»

«ATTEMPT TO
FORCE YOUR WAY
PAST ME I WHO
HOLD THE MANTLE
OF HEKA, AND
BE IN VIOLATION
OF YOUR OWN
FAIRY LAW.»

«BY MY
WILL OR
YOUR OWN
KIND YOU
WILL DIE.»



«THAT SAID, WELCOME! I WOULD
BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY
REASONABLE QUESTIONS ABOUT
MAGIC YOU MIGHT HAVE! WOULD
YOU LIKE TEA? SCONES?»

«I SUMMON
EXCELLENT
SCONES.»



«I JUST HAVE QUESTIONS.
THANK YOU THOUGH YOU
SHOULD KNOW WE DON'T
REFER TO OURSELVES AS
FAIRIES ANYMORE.»

«AND I WOULD LOVE TO
CALL YOUR KIND BY YOUR
PREFERRED NAME BUT SEEING
AS YOU'VE GONE WITH
"IMMORTAL" AS THOUGH YOU
WERE THE ONLY ONES, YOU
REMAIN FAIRIES TO ME.»



<FAIR ENOUGH. I WANT TO KNOW THE PURPOSE OF A MAGIC USER WITH LOTS OF ENERGY AND HIGH RESISTANCES...>

<. BUT NO SPELLS OF THEIR OWN, AND THE ABILITY TO SEE HOW MAGIC WORKS.>



<SIMPLY KNOWING THERE IS PURPOSE PUTS YOU AHEAD OF MOST>

<I ASSUME YOU ASK BECAUSE YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO FITS THIS DESCRIPTION?>



<YES.>

<AND DO YOU INTEND TO SHARE WHAT I TELL YOU WITH THEM?>

<ASSUMING IT WOULD NOT HURT THEM TO KNOW, YES.>



<AND WOULD YOU CONSIDER THIS PERSON TO BE INTELLIGENT OF SOUND MIND AND MORALLY GOOD?>



<I WOULD.>

<ARE YOU CERTAIN? ABOUT THE MORALLY GOOD, I MEAN. FAIRIES STRUGGLE WITH MORTAL MORALITY>



<I AM CERTAIN MY HUSBAND WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SO. THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME>

<WHY DOES THIS MATTER?>



<YOU HAVE DESCRIBED A SEER SEERS HAVE TWO PURPOSES, BUT BECOME INELIGIBLE FOR THE SECOND IF THEY KNOW ANY DETAILS ABOUT IT>

<IF YOUR SEER IS INTELLIGENT, OF SOUND MIND, AND MORALLY GOOD WE WANT THEM TO BE ELIGIBLE>



<I WILL TELL YOU OF THE FIRST PURPOSE AND OF AN ABILITY SEERS HAVE THAT YOU SEEM UNAWARE OF>

«I CAN DECIDE FOR MYSELF WHETHER I SHOULD TELL THEM THE SECOND PURPOSE. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THEM NOT TO BE "ELIGIBLE"»



«BEING ELIGIBLE IS A GOOD THING I'M BEING NICE BY MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO ACCIDENTALLY MESS IT UP FOR THEM, PANDORA.»



«I NEVER GAVE YOU MY NAME.»



«MANTLE OF HEKA, GOD OF MAGIC. I'M NOT ALL KNOWING OR ACTUALLY IN CHARGE OF MAGIC. BUT I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.»



«I KNOW WHO YOUR SEER IS.»

«NOT A LOT ABOUT HIM, BUT WITH MAGIC HOW IT IS RIGHT NOW AND HIM WHERE HE IS, I KNOW OF HIM.»

«HAD YOUR ASSESSMENT OF TEDD DREW VERRES BEEN LESS FAVORABLE. I WOULD HAVE USED YOU TO SABOTAGE HIS ELIGIBILITY.»



«THAT'S BRAZEN OF YOU TO ADMIT»

«JUST BEING HONEST POWERFUL AS I AM, YOU'D STILL FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE ME REGRET BEING MANIPULATIVE I'M HAPPIER BEING STRAIGHT WITH YOU.»



«BESIDES, I DON'T LIKE BEING A JERK WHEN I DON'T HAVE TO BE.»

«VERY WELL THEN. PLEASE TELL ME THE FIRST PURPOSE AND OF THIS ABILITY YOU SAY I'VE MISSED.»

«HAPPILY! AFTER I SUMMON SOME TEA.»



IS THERE ANYTHING
MORE I CAN DO TO STACK
THE DECK IN MY FAVOR?



IN SPITE OF MY
PREVIOUS FAILURES,
PLAN A IS GOING
BETTER THAN I'D
EVEN PLANNED.

I JUST WANTED
TO TRAUMATIZE THE
SEER TO WORSEN
THE OUTCOME OF
HIM FULFILLING HIS
HIDDEN PURPOSE

MY PLAN DIDN'T
INCLUDE FILLING HIM
WITH CONTEMPT AND
DISTRUST DIRECTED
PRECISELY WHERE I
WANT IT TO BE



A BIT EMBARRASSING,
REALLY IT SEEMS MY
BEST STRATEGY FOR
PLAN A WOULD HAVE
BEEN SIMPLY WARNING
THE SEER MYSELF
THAT MAGIC WAS
DOOMED TO CHANGE
I COULD EVEN HAVE
BEFRIENDED HIM.

NOW, ANY
ATTEMPT TO HELP
PLAN A WOULD
BACKFIRE.



PLAN CM, MEANWHILE, IS IN MOTION.
SIRLECK TOOK THE BAIT VAMPIRE
MERCENARIES HE CAN'T CALL OFF
ARE INCOMING...

HE'S
COMMITTED.



NO. THERE IS
NOTHING MORE TO
DO BUT MAKE SURE
NOTHING DERAILS
PLAN CM BEFORE
FRIDAY NIGHT



IF ALL GOES WELL,
IT WILL BE THE LAST
STRAW FOR MAGIC AND
IMMORTALS ALIKE. AND
THEN THEY WILL
LISTEN TO ME.

«THE FIRST PURPOSE IS AS I EXPECTED IT TO BE... AND THAT ABILITY EXPLAINS HOW HE'S MANAGED CERTAIN THINGS.»

«HE'S GOING TO HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THAT.»

«WHY WAS TEDD CHOSEN FOR THIS PURPOSE?»

«HE WASN'T. NOT IN ANY SORT OF "YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE" WAY, AT LEAST.»

«SEERS ARE A RARITY AMONG RARITIES, BUT TEDD'S FAR FROM THE ONLY ONE.»

«LIKE ALL WIZARDS AND PEOPLE WITH MAGIC AFFINITIES, TEDD HAS THE RIGHT ANCESTORS SOMEWHERE IN HIS FAMILY TREE.»

«TEDD JUST HAPPENS TO HAVE HAD THE RIGHT MIX TO WIND UP A SEER.»

«THE "RIGHT" ANCESTORS?»

«SIGH» «I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D KNOW MOST FAIRIES WHO DID KNOW MADE A POINT OF PASSING ON LIES TO THEIR REBORN SELVES.»

«YOU'RE ACTUALLY THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF WHY THEY DID.»

«WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?»

«WIZARDS, SEERS, THOSE WITH MAGIC AFFINITIES... ALL OF THEM ARE DESCENDED FROM...»

WHAT?!



Wednesday afternoon...





YOU HAVE ANOTHER EXPLANATION FOR WHY WE LOOK THE SAME?

MAYBE I MEAN... OKAY, YOU KNOW HOW YOU HAD A GROWTH SPURT AFTER AWAKENING?

AND HOW I'VE GOT A BIT MORE MUSCLE TONE THAN I SHOULD, AND NANASE... WELL, HONESTLY NANASE COULD JUST BE GENETICS

YOU'RE REFERRING TO PHYSICAL CHANGES LINKED TO THE PRESENCE OF MAGIC POWER

YEAH. WHAT IF INSTEAD OF YOU LOOKING SIMILAR BECAUSE OF HEREDITY IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR MAGIC AFFINITY?

WHAT, JUST EVERYONE WITH AN AFFINITY FOR SUMMONING MAGIC OBJECTS LOOKS LIKE ME?

NO. BUT... MAGIC CAN AFFECT APPEARANCE AND IT HAS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC, RIGHT?

TWO GIRLS WITH THE SAME AFFINITY ONE PERFECT FOR HUNTING VAMPIRES, EACH BORN WITHIN TWENTY MINUTES OF EACH OTHER?

WHAT IF MAGIC DECIDED IT WOULD BE DRAMATIC IF YOU LOOKED SIMILAR?

MAYBE NOT EVEN A COMPLETE OVERHAUL MAYBE JUST ENOUGH TO GET THE RIGHT EFFECT?

FOR ALL I KNOW THAT'S POSSIBLE BUT... THAT SEEMS A BIT MUCH FOR JUST BEING BORN CLOSE TOGETHER.

DID... DID I JUST STRENGTHEN THE ARGUMENT FOR YOU BEING HALF-SISTERS?

YES.

SORRY...

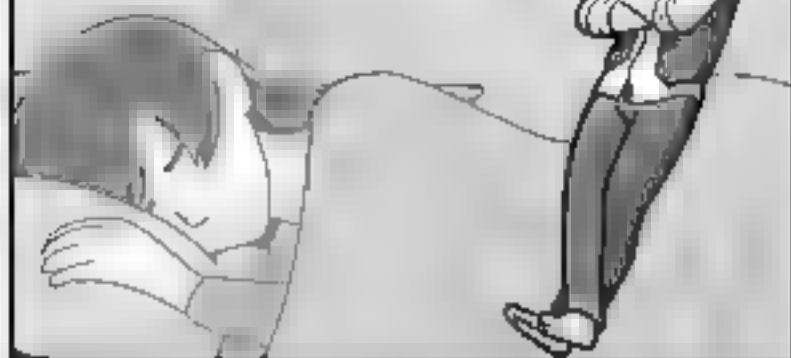
IF THAT IS POSSIBLE, THOUGH AND WE ARE HALF-SISTERS...

I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT



I'LL ADMIT THAT BEING YOUR "ALLY" HASN'T BEEN AS DULL AS ANTICIPATED, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PARTIES SOMEONE LIKE ME CAN CRASH?

NEITHER DO I! AND I'M NEVER GOING TO FIND OUT AT THIS RATE!



AND THE DANGER TO ME! YOUR FRIENDS HAVE THE ATTENTION OF AT LEAST FOUR OTHER IMMORTALS WHO ARE OLDER THAN ME!



FOUR! AND I CAN'T TOTALLY HIDE MYSELF FROM THEM YET!

HMPH. I CAN'T CALL MYSELF YOUR ALLY AND DITCH YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS...

BUT IF I CAN SOLVE THE SUSAN-DIANE CONNECTION FOR YOU WELL... PAR-TAY



JERRY DID PASS ON A "FUN FACT" TO ME ABOUT MAGIC AFFECTING TWO PEOPLE'S APPEARANCES RELATIVE TO ONE ANOTHER. BUT THAT WAS RIVAL WIZARDS WHO LEARNED MAGIC TOGETHER.



WAIT A MINUTE! I CAN GO SPY ON YOUR DAD! TRY AND FIND OUT IF HE KNOWS ABOUT DIANE!



I CAN BE YOUR ALLY AND BE SOMEWHERE SAFE!







WHAT THE HELL?!



YOU'RE ACTUALLY READING YOUR SPELL BOOK?!



I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW EVERYTHING IN IT MIGHT CHANGE

(Thursday morning, btw)



SO YOU'RE NOT CHECKING FOR NEW SPELLS. YOU'RE JUST BEING SENTIMENTAL.



I GUESS?



AND THE WORLD MAKES SENSE AGAIN.



OH, COME ON. IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S A...

WAIT THERE ACTUALLY IS SOMETHING NEW HERE!

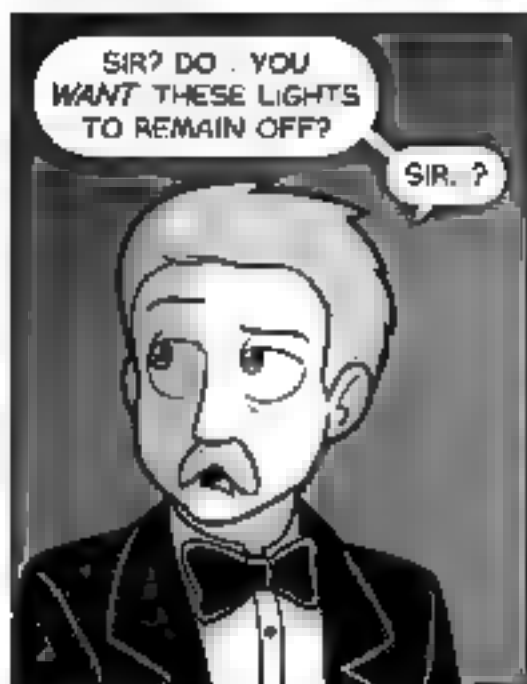


HA!

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED YOUR SPELL BOOK?



THIS ISN'T ABOUT ME.



I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO REALLY, WELL, PROBABLY TRY AND FAIL TO MAKE SENSE OF IT BUT I THINK IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH VISION? I SAW THE WORDS "OCULAR" AND "ENHANCEMENT" IN THERE

AND NOTHING TO DO WITH A FEMALE FORM?

NOT THAT I COULD TELL. NO.

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU LIKED THE POWERS BECOMING YOUR CELL PHONE GAVE YOU...

I DIDN'T BECOME MY CELL PHONE! I JUST SORTA MERGED WITH IT

PO-TAY TO PO-PAH TO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS COULD MEAN, RIGHT?

MAGIC'S NOT CONFUSED ABOUT WHAT SPELLS REFLECT ME ANYMORE?

WHICH *SHOULD* MEAN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ENERGY BUILDUPS ANYMORE!

SO I I DON'T HAVE TO TRANSFORM ANYMORE?

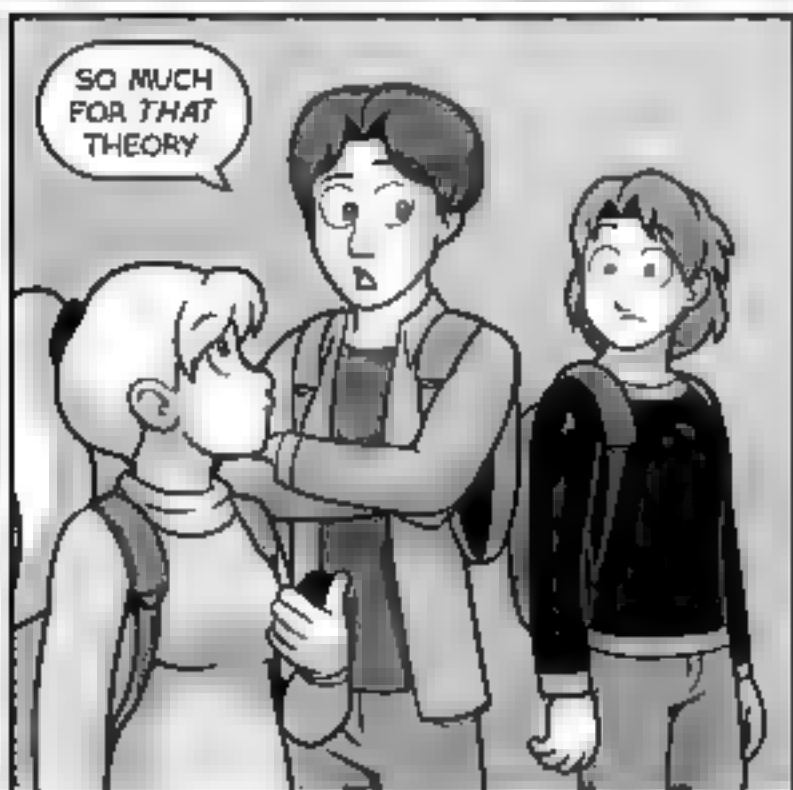
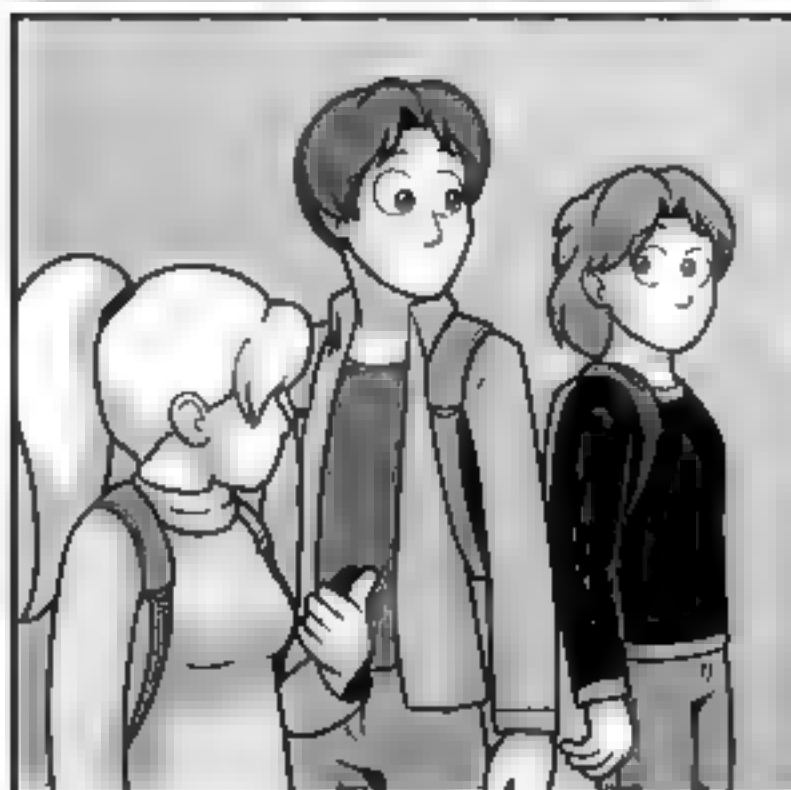
MOST LIKELY YEAH

BUT NOT DEFINITELY, SO I SHOULD STILL DO T

FOR NOW BUT AFTER SCHOOL, YOU SHOULD...

KEEP ON TRANSFORMING. GOT IT

UH.



THIS READS LIKE TOTAL GIBBERISH. I'M SURE IT ENHANCES MY VISION BUT BEYOND THAT, IT MIGHT HIGHLIGHT THINGS. ?

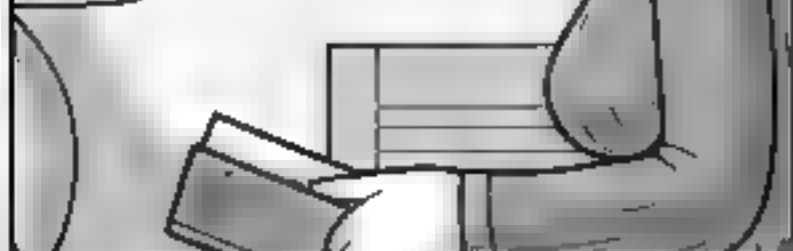
BAH. I'LL JUST TRY IT OUT WHEN TEDD CAN WATCH. HE'LL MAKE SENSE OF IT

Elliot. You probably knew that, but, you know. Just saying



DEFINITELY NOTHING ABOUT BEING A GIRL, THOUGH. I PROBABLY REALLY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ENERGY BUILDUPS ANYMORE.

I DON'T NEED TO TRANSFORM.



I WANT TO, THOUGH.



I SHOULD MAKE SURE THE CHEERLEADRA DECOY WORKED INSTEAD OF THINKING ABOUT THAT

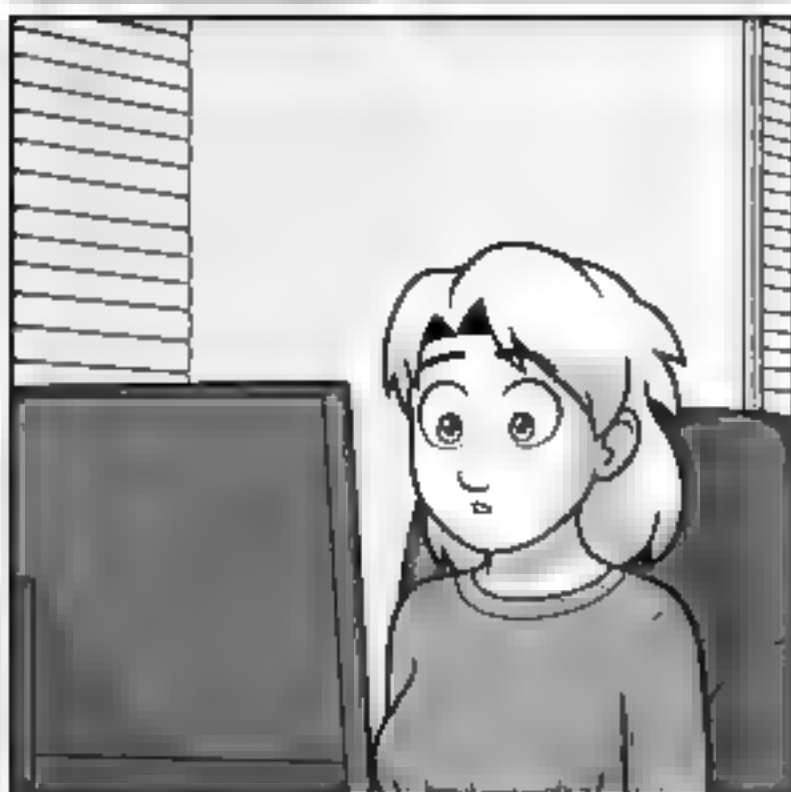


THEY'RE JUST COMMENTS, ELLIOT. JUST KEEP YOUR COOL, AND CHECK FOR NEW CHEERLEADRA STUFF

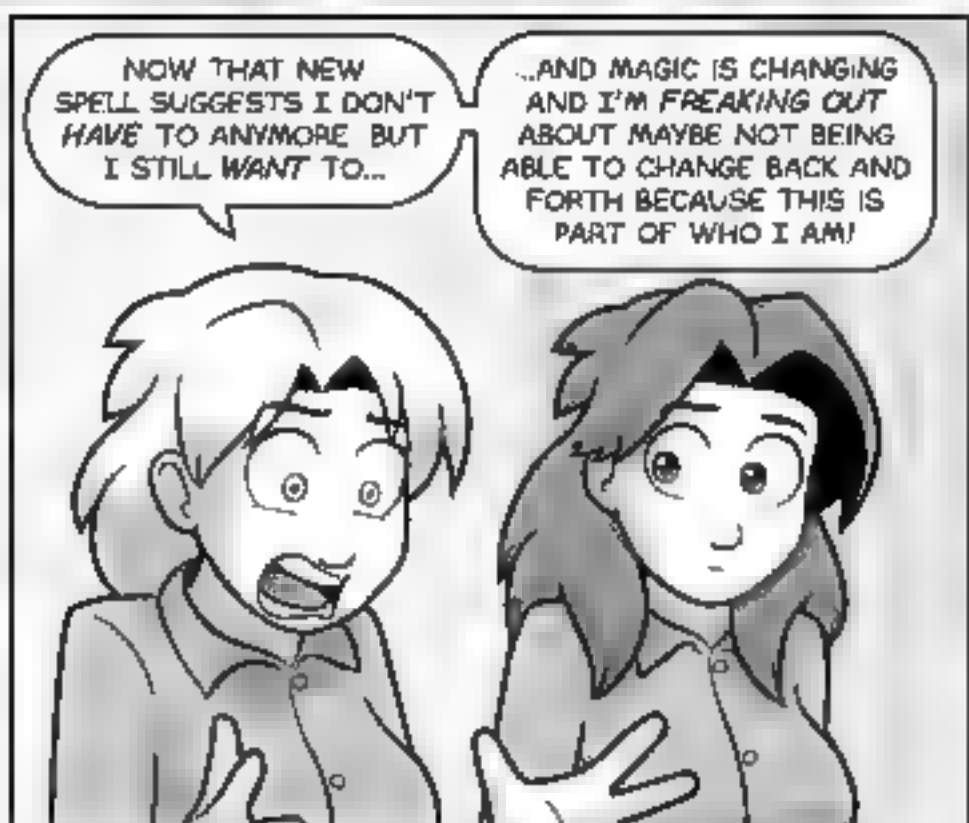
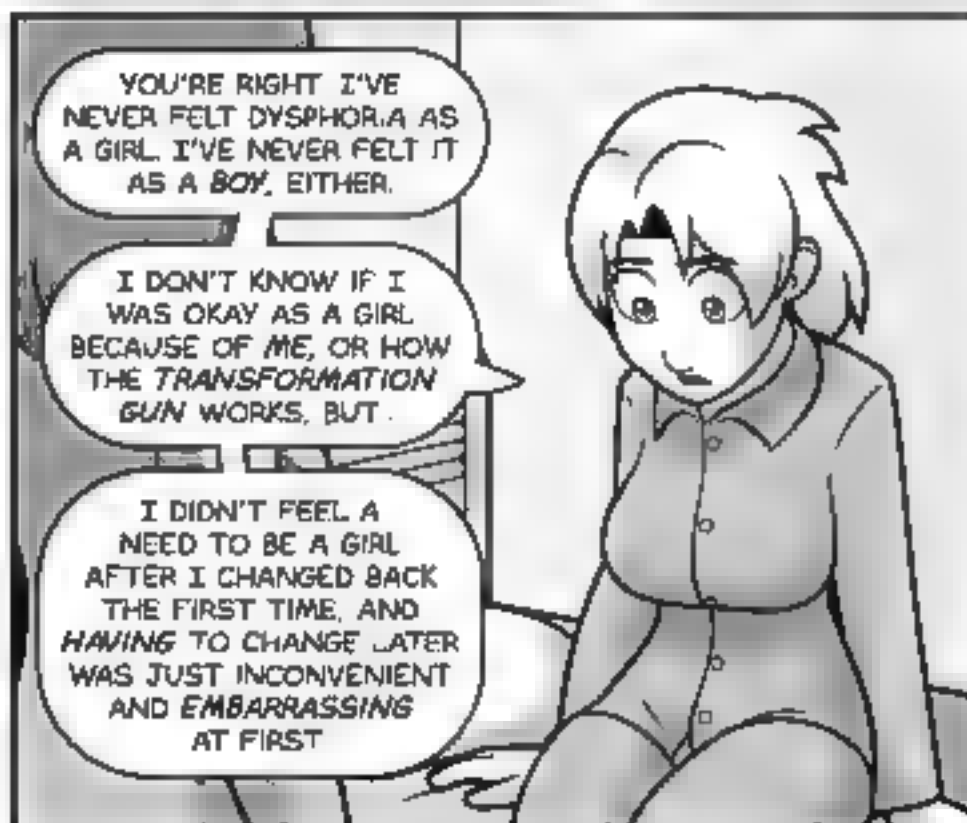


I SHOULD CHECK THE CHANNEL'S PRIVATE MESSAGES BEFORE READING THE COMMENTS AGAIN.













SO WHY DID YOU ASK ME IF I LIKED BEING A GIRL?



SOMEONE WHO'S TRANSGENDER MESSAGED ME ASKING IF I WAS CHEERLEADRA, AND IF I COULD HELP THEM TRANSFORM.



OH.

YEAH. GOT ME LOOKING UP THINGS, AND I WANT TO HELP BUT ..



YOU'D HAVE TO CONFIRM YOU'RE CHEERLEADRA, AND GET TEDD OR MY ZAPPING INVOLVED. EVERYTHING WE COULD DO IS TEMPORARY, AND WOULD EVENTUALLY REQUIRE UPKEEP

WATCHES COULD WORK BUT EITHER THEY ONLY WORK AROUND HERE AND STOP WORKING WHEN THE MAGIC ENERGY ISSUE'S FIXED... OR MAGIC CHANGES.



THEY'D HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO PEOPLE HOW THEY CHANGED, AND MOST PEOPLE WON'T ACCEPT THEY ARE WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE. THEY'LL GET THE ATTENTION OF *MAGIC SECRECY GOONS*.

AT THAT POINT, EVEN IF THEY DON'T SELL US OUT, THERE'S THE RECORD OF YOU MESSAGING THEM. TEDD'S URYUOM TECH PRIVILEGES MOST LIKELY GET REVOKED EVEN IF HE DIDN'T USE THEM.



END RESULT WE'VE TEMPORARILY HELPED ONE PERSON BEFORE GETTING THEM IN TROUBLE AND TAKING IT ALL AWAY

...AND THAT'S ASSUMING IT WASN'T A TRICK.

IT WHAT?!



THE OLD "GET A SUPER HERO TO EXPOSE THEIR SECRET IDENTITY BY APPEALING TO THEIR GOOD NATURE" TRICK?

SERIOUSLY, YOU SHOULD READ MORE COMICS IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHEERLEADRA.

SO YOU'RE LIKE
TEDD THEN.

NOT.. EXACTLY LIKE TEDD?
I THINK TEDD WOULD FEEL
THE WAY HE DOES EVEN IF
HE'D NEVER HEARD OF THE
TRANSFORMATION GUN.

WHEREAS YOU'D BE
INDIFFERENT IF IT
HADN'T BECOME PART
OF YOUR DAY-TO-DAY

I GUESS? MAYBE?
I DON'T KNOW
I'M NOT EVEN
SURE I HAVE A
GENDER IDENTITY
AT THIS POINT

I DID SEE A
DRESS AT THE MALL.
I SORTA LIKED? I
DON'T KNOW IF THAT
MEANS ANYTHING

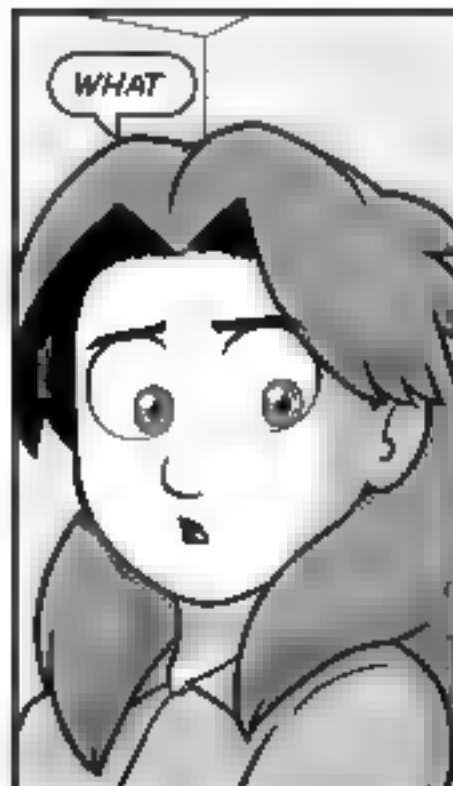
IT MEANS
IT WAS A NICE
DRESS.

AND.. I DEFINITELY LIKE
GIRLS MORE BUT SOME
GUYS ARE ATTRACTIVE AND
THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO
CHANGE WHEN I CHANGE
AND I'M NOT A HUNDRED
PERCENT SURE IT HAS
ANYTHING TO DO WITH
TRANSFORMATION

BUT I GUESS
THAT ISN'T
GENDER SPECIFIC
ANYWAY

GOTTA BE HONEST
I DID NOT EXPECT
YOU TO HAVE THAT
FIGURED OUT

SHIRTS
VERSUS SKINS
WITH NOAH
FLIPPING
HELPED!



WHAT

THERE'S THE TWO THAT HELPED ME AT THE MALL, THE ONE THAT'S SUSAN'S ALLY OR WHATEVER. THE ONE THAT PROMISED TO HELP SARAH AWAKEN.



...THE ONE WHO'S ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AMBIENT MAGIC ENERGY RUNNING AROUND MARKING PEOPLE WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION, AND IS WAY PAST HER EXPIRATION DATE?



NOBODY'S PERFECT



AND THE FIFTH IMMORTAL WE KNOW TRIED TO KILL YOU



HE IS A BAD EGG. WE STICK TO GOOD EGGS.



SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT YOU WANT TO CONVINCE ONE OR MORE IMMORTALS TO FIND AND MARK TRANSGENDER PEOPLE.



WITH THEIR CONSENT AND A STRESSING OF THE NEED FOR SECRECY TO KEEP MAGIC HAPPY

IF SOMEONE'S YEARNING FOR SOMETHING, THEIR SPELL CAN REFLECT THAT RIGHT?



THERE ARE SO MANY PROBLEMS WITH THIS IDEA.

I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE A WAY TO CONTACT THEM YET BUT AFTER THE AMBIENT ENERGY'S FIXED, THE ONE SARAH KNOWS WILL.

THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS.

EVEN IF THIS PERSON WAS TRYING TO TRICK ME, THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM TRANSFORMATION.

I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE BECAUSE TEDD SAYS ENCHANTMENTS ARE BAD AT FIXING MEDICAL STUFF..

YEAH. ONLY WAY WE CAN REALLY SHARE IT THOUGH, IS IF MAGIC BECOMES AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE. TEDD'S DREAM HAS TO BECOME A REALITY

MAKE IT SO PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED FROM MAGIC ABUSE, AND MAKE IT PUBLIC.

WITH MAGIC THE WAY IT IS... I'M SURE IT'LL EVENTUALLY GET THAT IT CAN'T JUST KEEP CHANGING, AND TEDD WILL DO HIS THING, BUT... HOW LONG WILL THAT TAKE?

NO IDEA. HECK, IT MIGHT NEVER LEARN THAT LESSON IF IT DOESN'T CHANGE

WE'RE SITTING ON SO MANY WAYS TO TRANSFORM.

THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO..

I DON'T THINK THERE IS. WE CAN'T REALLY HELP ANYONE WITHOUT LOSING THE ABILITY TO HELP THEM, AND EVEN IF WE COULD. WE CAN'T EXACTLY SPREAD THE WORD WITHOUT RISKING MAGIC CHANGING.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN JUST QUIETLY GIVE PEOPLE MAGIC MARKS LIKE TEDD'S.

..ELIJOT?

HOW MANY IMMORTALS DO WE KNOW?



LOOK FIRST. IT'S THE SAME PROBLEM THAT MAGIC COULD CHANGE AT ANY TIME. THAT'S STILL A THING EVEN IF THE AMBIENT MAGIC GETS FIXED.

MAGIC'S ALREADY HAD A TON OF EXPOSURE

YEAH. BUT IF KEPT SECRET...

SECOND, EVEN IF EVERYONE IS ON BOARD WITH SECRECY THAT'S STILL A BUNCH MORE PEOPLE GETTING MAGIC. A BUNCH MORE WHO MIGHT AWAKEN, AND DIFFERENT PEOPLE WILL GET DIFFERENT SPELLS.

SOMEONE COULD GET SOMETHING AS DIFFICULT TO HIDE AS MY TRANSFORMATION BEAMS, OR SOMETHING THAT'S MIND-BENDING IN UNDESIRE WAYS, OR CONTAGIOUS, OR

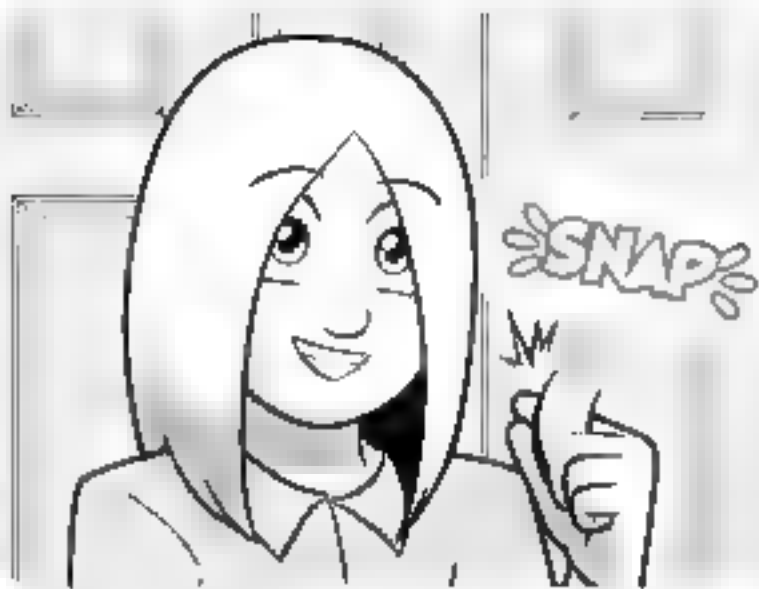
AN IMMORTAL WHO'S ON BOARD WITH THIS CAN HELP AVOID THAT SORT OF THING!

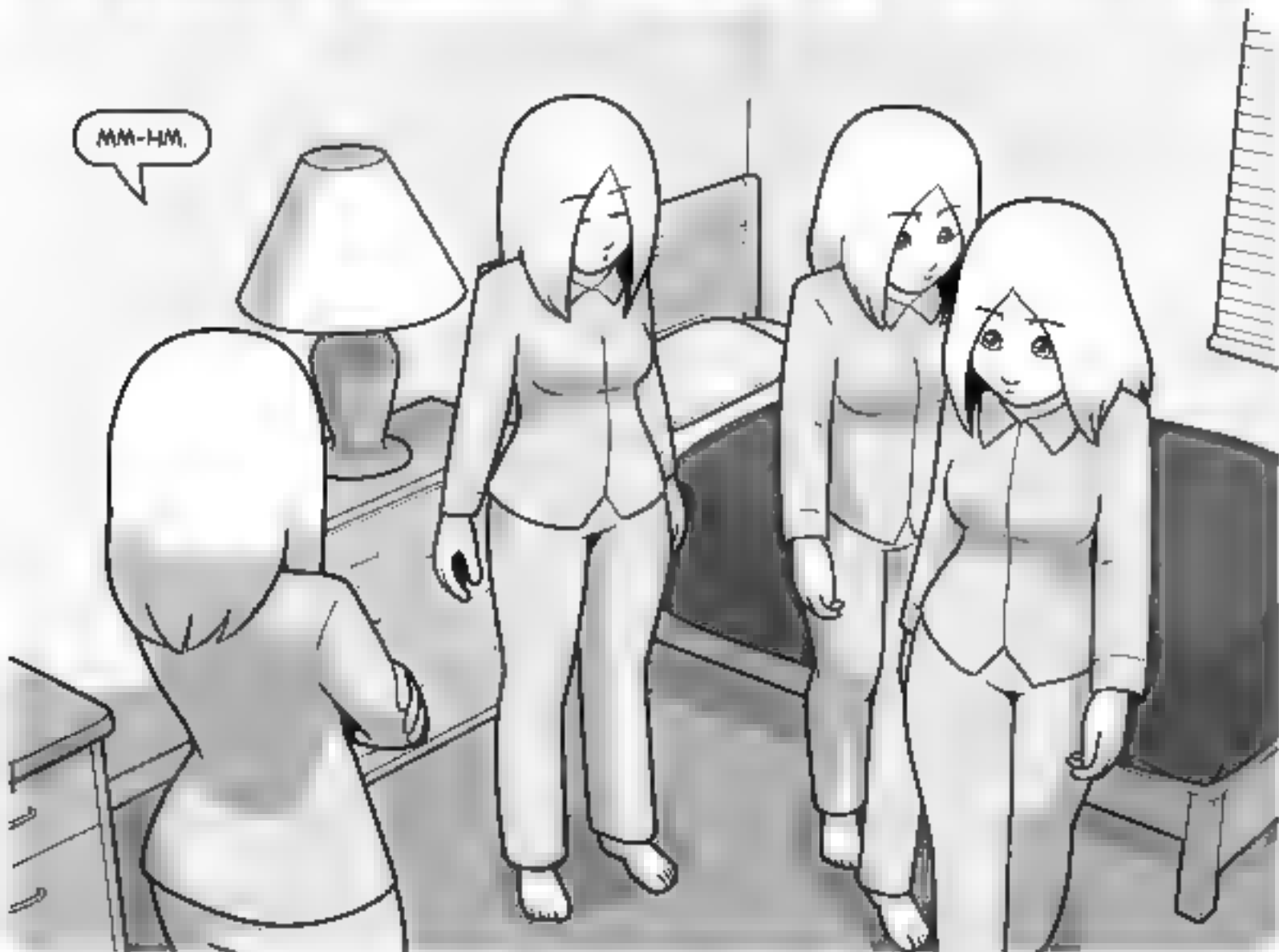
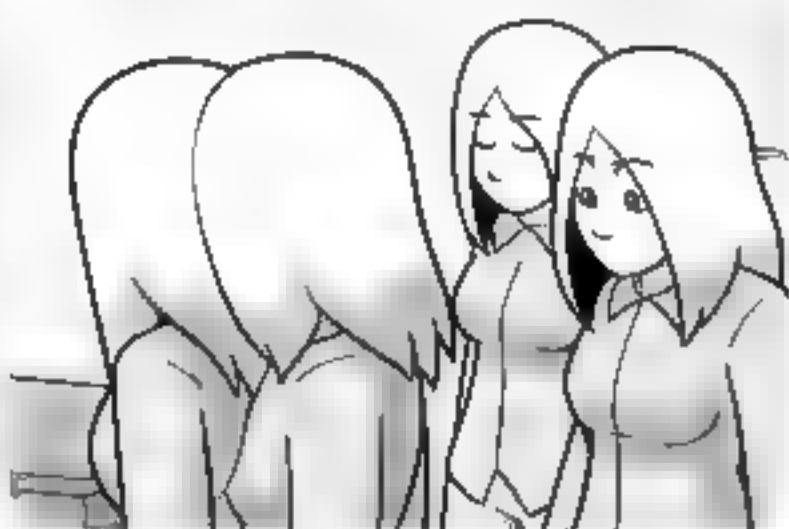
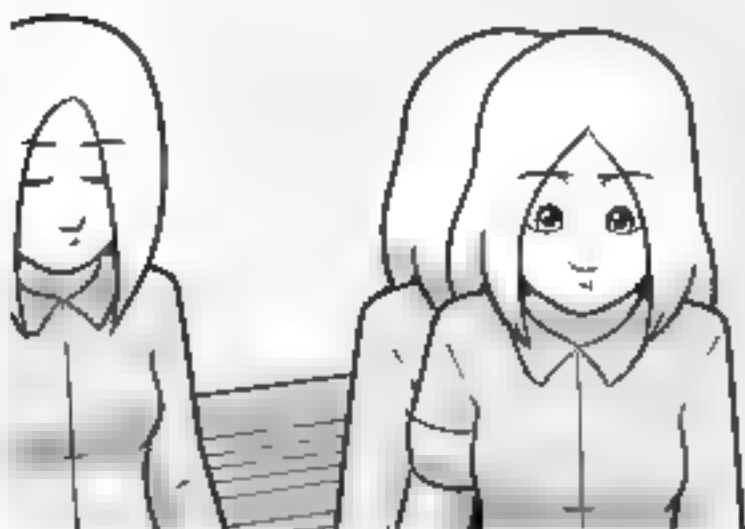
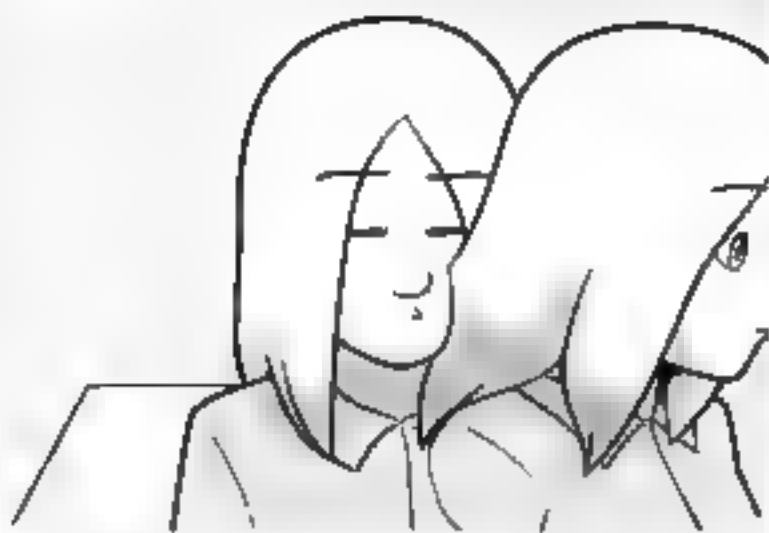
THIRD, IMMORTALS ARE NOT ALTRUISTIC FRIENDS OF HUMANS. WE ARE TOOLS AND PLAYTHINGS TO THEM. EVEN THE ONES WHO MEAN WELL LIKE THOSE ANTI-VAMPIRE ONES NANASE AND SUSAN MET CAN BE HORRIBLE JERKS ABOUT IT

BUT SUSAN'S ALLY

WAS NICE AT THE END OF HIS PREVIOUS LIFE WHEN YOUNGER HE MADE MAGIC HAMMERS A THING TO ENCOURAGE SEXIST AND VULGAR JOKES. AND MEN GETTING THWOMPED ON THE HEAD.

YOU'RE BASICALLY SUGGESTING INVITING MAGICAL TRICKSTER JERKS INTO STRANGERS LIVES TO PROVIDE WHAT COULD EASILY BE TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN WORK RIGHT



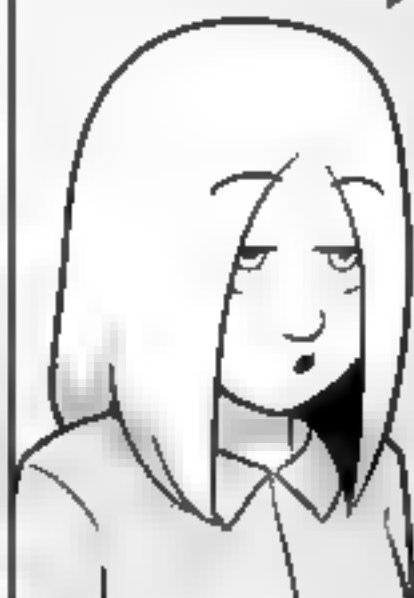




I I SHOULD PROBABLY RETURN TO REALITY...



PHEW



I SEE YOU'VE--

GAH!

T
H
W
U
M
P



BEEN PRACTICING YOUR SPELL



I SUPPOSE ASKING
YOU TO KNOCK WOULD
BE POINTLESS?



RIGHT WELL... I'VE
BEEN USING MY SPELL AS
MUCH AS YOU SAID TO



IS IT MAKING A
DIFFERENCE?

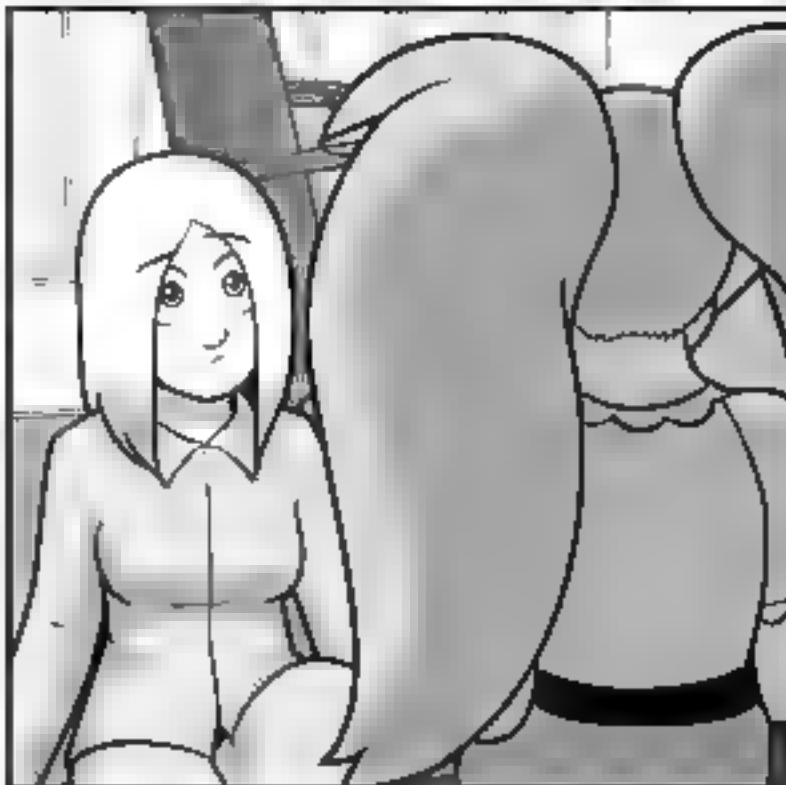
YES. THE AMBIENT ENERGY IS
GOING DOWN... AT THIS RATE, IT
SHOULD BE SAFE TO FIX THE
CLOG IN A FEW DAYS.



AS FOR YOU, YOUR POWER
HAS INCREASED YOU'VE STILL A
LONG WAY TO GO TO AWAKEN,
BUT YOU'VE MADE PROGRESS.



AWESOME.



ARE YOU
OKAY?

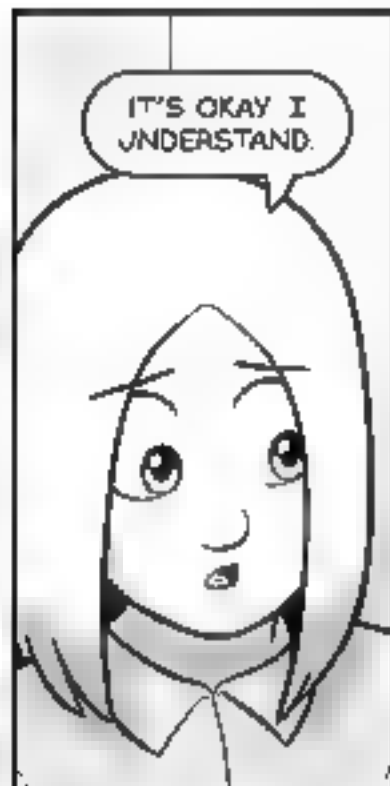
EH?

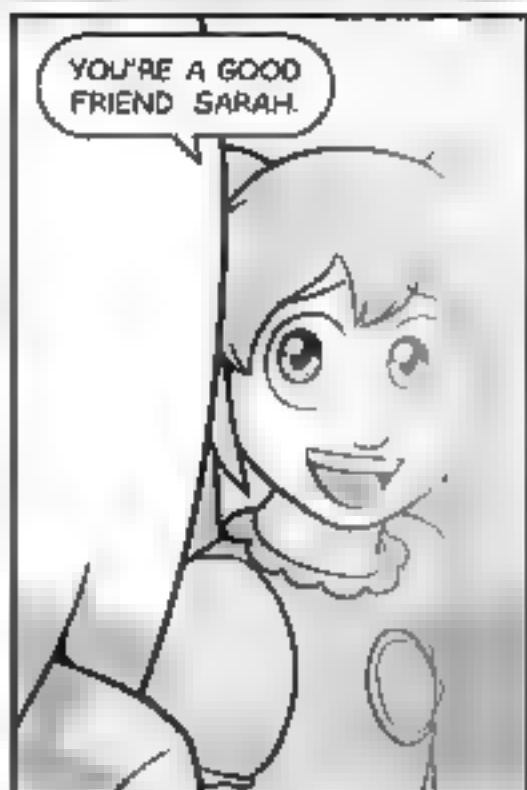
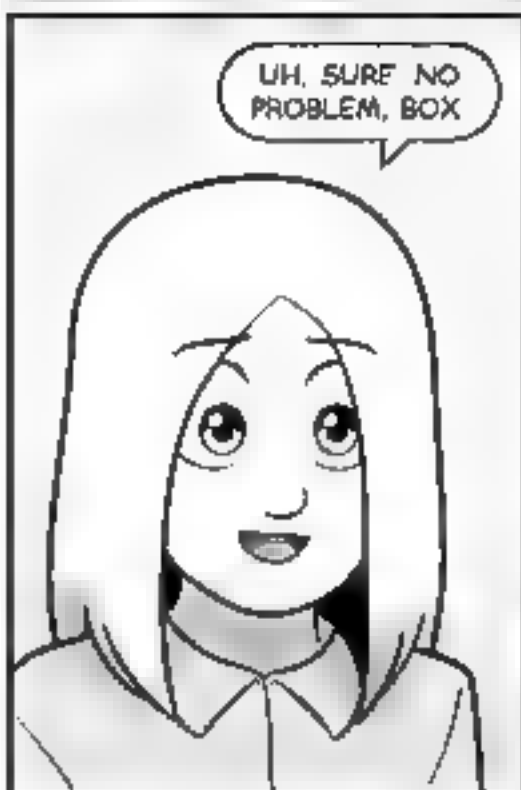
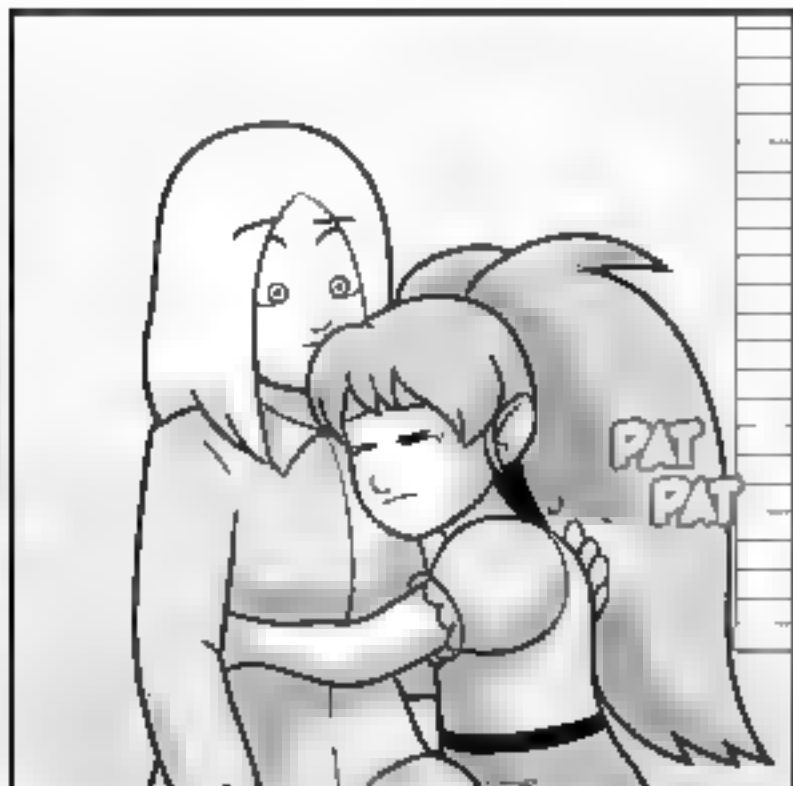


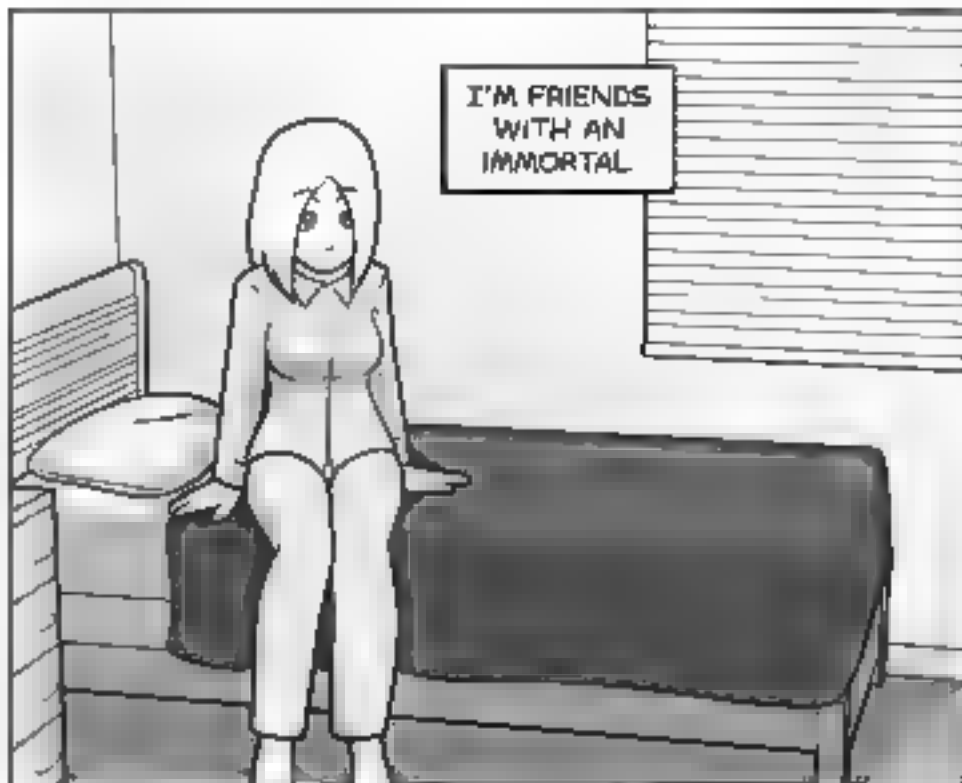




**OH MY GOD
JUST TELL ME
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT**







I'M FRIENDS
WITH AN
IMMORTAL



THAT + IS
AWESOME



I HOPE
SHE'LL
WORK
THINGS
OUT WITH
HER SON.

I'M
GUESSING HE'S
WHY SHE
HASN'T RESET
FOR SUCH A
LONG TIME?

SHE MUST
REALLY CARE
ABOUT HIM...



BRUSH

BRUSH

BRUSH



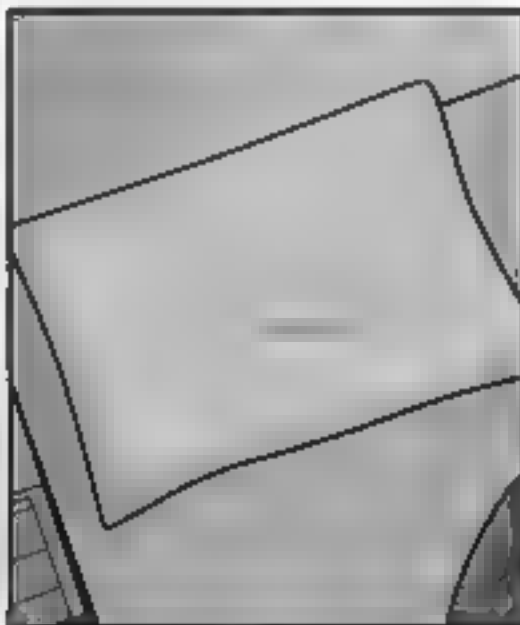
YAWN



WAIT A
SECOND!

IS SHE
RAVEN'S
MOTHER?!

Later that evening, AKA super early Friday morning





YOU . YOU
KNOW WHY I CAN
SEE MAGIC?



I ONLY
JUST LEARNED.
BUT YES.

YOU ARE A
SEER, A TYPE
OF WIZARD..

AND A
CONSTANT
IN MAGIC
MEANT TO
BRING BACK
MAGIC'S USE
SHOULD IT
CHANGE.



WHAT



IF MAGIC CHANGES, AND
I'M SINCERELY SORRY IF
IT DOES, YOU WILL STILL
BE ABLE TO SEE AND
UNDERSTAND MAGIC

YOU WILL HAVE INSIGHT
INTO WHATEVER THE
SYSTEM BECOMES, AND
THE KNOWLEDGE NEEDED
TO TEACH OTHERS.



MAGIC.. CHOSE ME
TO KEEP PEOPLE USING IT
AFTER IT CHANGES?

NOT CHOSEN. BEING
A SEER IS HEREDITARY
VERY RARE, BUT..



MAGIC KNOCKS THE
BOARD OVER IF TOO
MANY PEOPLE KNOW
HOW IT WORKS...

BUT IT EXPECTS ME TO
PICK UP THE PIECES?!



YES.

THAT'S BULLCRAP!

ALSO
YES.



THAT AND I NEVER GET SPELLS. EITHER. DO I?



I MEAN, I KNOW I'M RIDICULOUSLY SPOILED! ALL THIS STUFF I HAVE A-AND THE SPELL YOU GAVE ME, BUT...

THAT'S NOT HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE IS IT?



I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE CHUMP WHO KNOWS HOW EVERYTHING WORKS, BUT CAN'T DO ANY OF IT!



NO, TEDD.



A SEER IS A TYPE OF WIZARD YOU CANNOT CAST SPELLS ON YOUR OWN BUT YOU CAN LEARN SPELLS, AND YOU CAN USE THEM. YOU ALREADY HAVE BEEN.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND..



THAT GLOVE YOU'RE WEARING. THE ONE YOU MADE TO PUT SPELLS IN YOUR WATCHES.



IT WOULDN'T WORK FOR ANYONE BUT A SEER.

THIS IS TECHNOLOGY I CAME UP WITH THIS WHOLE COMPLEX SYSTEM FOR.

I'M THE POWER SOURCE, BUT

IT'S THE GLOVE ENCHANTING THE WATCHES.

YOU ARE USING THE DATA YOU STORE IN THE GLOVE TO GET THE EXACT SPELLS YOU WANT MORE EASILY BUT NO.

YOU ARE THE ONE ENCHANTING THE WATCHES, MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO CAST SPELLS YOU'VE OBSERVED THROUGH THEM.

THAT IS THE TYPE OF WIZARD A SEER IS. THE TYPE OF WIZARD YOU ARE

A Wand Maker.

SO THIS DOESN'T ACTUALLY WORK

I KNOW YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED. BUT IF YOU CAN SET ASIDE YOUR PRIDE FOR

I PUT WEEKS INTO PLANNING THIS THING I WAS REALLY PROUD OF MYSELF

YOU DID INVENT A WAY OF MORE EASILY CUSTOMIZING SPELLS FOR WANDS.

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN SOMETHING WAS WRONG WHEN IT WORKED ON THE FIRST TRY

LISTEN TO ME



I KNOW THIS STINGS YOUR PRIDE, BUT YOU KNOW YOU'RE BRILLIANT AND YOU'VE USED THAT BRILLIANCE TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR ABILITIES.

VERY FEW IN YOUR POSITION WOULD ACCOMPLISH A FRACTION OF WHAT YOU HAVE



AND THESE ABILITIES... THEY'RE PERFECT FOR YOU! AND EVEN IF MAGIC CHANGES YOU'LL STILL HAVE THEM!



THE ABILITY TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND MAGIC. TO RESIST ANY SPELL, AND SHRUG OFF ANY ENCHANTMENT

TO TAKE ANY SPELL YOU'VE WITNESSED AND MAKE IT YOUR OWN. IMPROVE IT SHARE IT



AND KNOW THAT YOU, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CAST IT, FOR YOU ARE A WELL OF POWER!

WHERE OTHERS TREMBLE AND SUCKLE AT AMBIENT ENERGY, YOU HAVE NEED FOR NONE...



FOR YOU ARE MIGHTY, WITH POWER AND MIND TO BEND **WORLDS** TO YOUR WILL!





I'M NOT A SAINT I'VE HAD EVIL IDEAS. PLENTY OF THEM. MOSTLY REVENGE AND PUNISHING PEOPLE FOR BEING JERKS, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE THOSE IDEAS OKAY



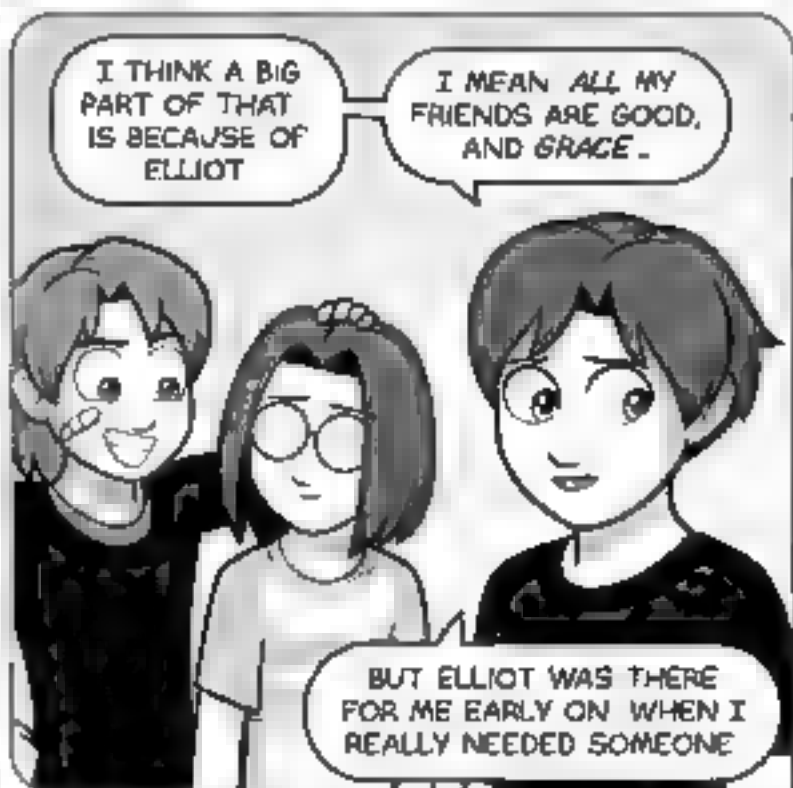
PEOPLE SAY THAT...



BUT I'VE NEVER DONE ANY OF THOSE THINGS, OR REALLY PUT TOO MUCH THOUGHT INTO THEM.

I MEAN. I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT TRANSFORMING PEOPLE A LOT BUT THAT'S USUALLY JUST

POINT IS, I TRY TO BE A GOOD PERSON.



I THINK A BIG PART OF THAT IS BECAUSE OF ELLIOT

I MEAN ALL MY FRIENDS ARE GOOD, AND GRACE.

BUT ELLIOT WAS THERE FOR ME EARLY ON WHEN I REALLY NEEDED SOMEONE



I'M NOT EVIL... AND I'M REALLY LUCKY TOO.


I'VE GOT A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR, DON'T I?




YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD SO MUCH MORE SUPPORT WHEN YOUR MOTHER LEFT..

YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD MY SUPPORT






NOT THAT I WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD INFLUENCE, BUT *NONETHELESS*.




YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR ME?

WHY WOULD... W- WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION TO ME?



I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S "RIGHT" FOR ME TO TELL YOU I KNOW MANY WOULD ARGUE I SHOULD NOT TELL YOU



BLAIKE WOULD HAVE DISAGREED WITH THEM.

MY SON WAS A FRIEND OF YOUR PARENTS, AND HE IS YOUR GODFATHER.




I CONSIDER YOU *FAMILY*




I... HAVE A GODFATHER?

AND YOU...



I AM PANDORA RAVEN, MOTHER OF ADRIAN RAVEN.



RAVEN. ? GRACE'S HISTORY TEACHER IS MY GODFATHER?

YES.

WHAT

GRADE'S HISTORY.
GRACE TOLD ME HE
TAUGHT MY PARENTS,
BUT I'VE NEVER EVEN
MET THAT GUY!

I MEAN, HIM.

YOUR
WONDERFUL
SON.

YOU HAVE,
BUT THAT WAS
LONG AGO AND
MY SON AND
YOUR FATHER
HAD A FALLING
OUT

ADRIAN WAS
TO TEACH YOU
ABOUT MAGIC
BEFORE IT WAS
FALSELY
DETERMINED
THAT YOU
WERE NOT
A WIZARD

WAIT WAIT WAIT...
THEY EXPECTED ME
TO BE A WIZARD?

IT WAS
BELIEVED
TO BE

ACTUALLY
I SUPPOSE
IT'S BEEN RE-
CONFIRMED.

IT IS
GUARANTEED
WHEN BOTH
PARENTS ARE
WIZARDS.

WAIT BUT...
MY MOM'S A
WIZARD?

A PARTICULARLY
POWERFUL ONE.

YOUR MOTHER
COMES FROM
A LONG LINE
OF MONSTER
HUNTERS.

SO, OBVIOUSLY
DOES YOUR AUNT,
WHO COULD HAVE
BEEN EQUALLY
POWERFUL IF
SHE'D TRIED...

I... BUT...

I THOUGHT
MY MOM WAS A
TRAVEL AGENT

SHE MIGHT
ALSO BE THAT

SO THEY EXPECTED,
BUT I AM! WHY
DIDN'T THAT LOUD
SCARY WAND THING
TELL THEM I WAS
A WIZARD?

I BELIEVE IT'S
BECAUSE THE WAND
S LOUD AND SCARY
THE WAND'S
DETECTION CAN
BE RESISTED...

AND YOU WERE A FRIGHTENED
BABY WITH ENOUGH SPELL RESISTANCE
TO GIVE IT A FALSE NEGATIVE, WHICH
NO ONE WOULD HAVE GUESSED.

WAAAAH!!

ARE YOU SAYING THEY
COULDN'T TELL I WAS A
WIZARD BECAUSE I WAS TOO
POWERFUL AS A BABY?

THAT'S ONE WAY
OF PUTTING IT

HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA
HA! OH MAN!

THEY MUST
HAVE BEEN SO
DISAPPOINTED
WITH ME!

THWOMP

SEE. THIS IS THE PART
WHERE THE AWKWARD SILENCE
TOTALLY CONFIRMS IT

AS IF STILL HAVING A CONDITIONED
FEAR RESPONSE TO THAT WAND DIDN'T
MAKE IT OBVIOUS. JUST HOW MANY
TIMES DID THEY "DOUBLE CHECK"?

THEY WERE
FRIGHTENED FOR YOU
BOTH OF THEM HAVE
ENEMIES. THEY
WANTED YOU ABLE TO
DEFEND YOURSELF

WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, NOBODY
ON THE PARANORMAL END OF
THINGS WANTS TO MESS WITH
MY DAD. NOW YOU'RE SAYING MY
MOM'S A POWERFUL WIZARD?

WHO'S GONNA MESS WITH ME.
KNOWING THAT ABOUT THEM?

***YOU ARE NOT
A PARENT!***

YOU WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR
YOUR SON. YOU WANT TO BE
THERE AND PROTECT HIM AT
ALL TIMES. BUT YOU CAN'T

EVEN IF YOU'RE THERE,
HE HAS TO STAND ALONE.
HE HAS TO BE ABLE TO
PROTECT HIMSELF. KEEP
HIMSELF SAFE.

AND YOU PREPARE HIM
FOR THAT, HELP HIM
ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE
ALL WHILE TRYING NOT
TO PUSH HIM AWAY

BUT EVERY YEAR IT'S HARDER
AND HARDER TO STAY FOCUSED
AND BE WHO HE NEEDS YOU
TO BE AND HE NEEDS YOU BUT
MAYBE YOU NEED HIM MORE
***YOU CAN'T LET GO BUT YOU
NEED TO LET GO HE NEEDS YOU
HE DOESN'T IT'S NOT THAT...***

IT'S NOT
THAT SIMPLE.



I'M SORRY IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME TO MAINTAIN MY COMPOSURE FOR LONG AND I'VE HAD TO DO IT A LOT OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS...



THAT'S NATURAL FOR AN IMMORTAL WHO HASN'T RESET FOR A REALLY LONG TIME ,SN'T IT?

AND YOU'VE GOT A LOT ON YOUR MIND.



MOST IMMORTALS RESET BY TWO HUNDRED...



YOU HAVEN'T RESET IN ORDER TO BE WITH YOUR SON. RIGHT?

I RESPECT THAT



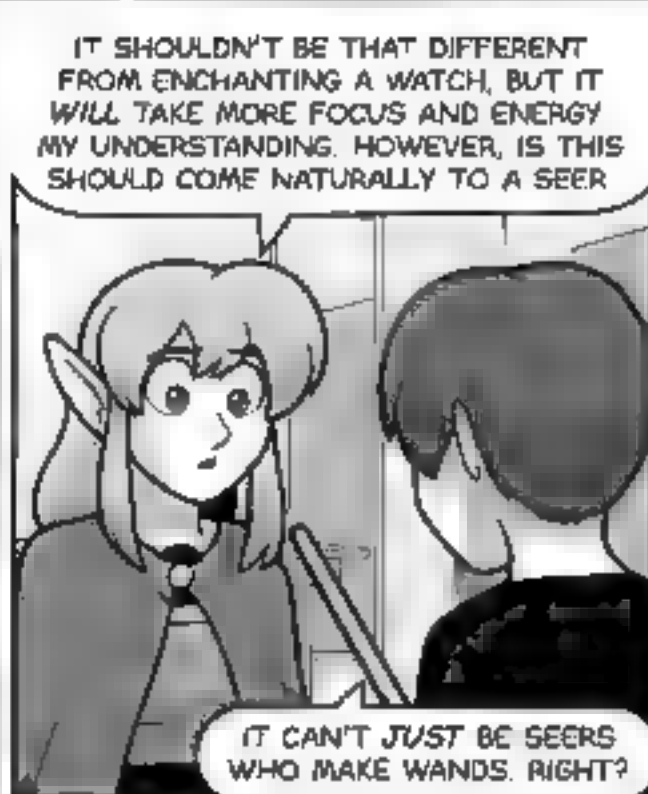
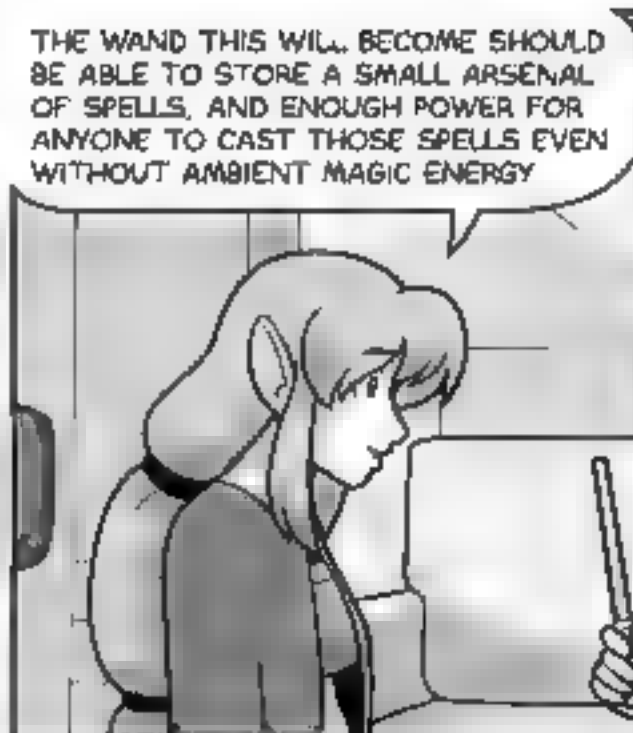
TAKE OFF YOUR GLOVE.

UH...

WHY?



YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE YOUR FIRST PROPER WAND.









I GUESS
I DO KNOW
FVS REALLY
WELL...

FUNNY
HOW I
NEVER
PLANNED
ON IT
GETTING
USED ON
ANYONE
OTHER
THAN ME



VWM



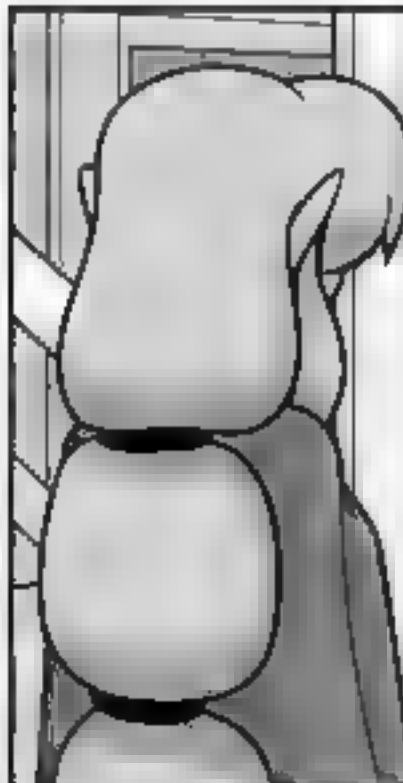
ZZZZ~




ZZZZ~














NO, I'M NOT!
WE'RE GREAT FOR
EACH OTHER!




WHEN THE CREATOR OF THE
DEWITCHERY DIAMOND CAME
TO MOPERVILLE, I SET ASIDE
MY ALLEGIANCE WITH MAGUS
FOR THE SMALLEST CHANCE
OF PETTY REVENGE...




AND I ALLOWED
ADRIAN TO FIGHT ABRAHAM
FOR THE SAME REASON,
TELLING MYSELF IT WAS FOR
ADRIAN'S OWN GOOD.




I KNEW ADRIAN
WOULDN'T DIE
I'M BORDERLINE
PSYCHIC




BUT ONLY WHEN I
ABANDON EMPATHY
AND KINDNESS,
WHICH I DO ALL
TOO EASILY




I DIDN'T CARE
ABOUT THE PAIN IT
WOULD CAUSE HIM. I
BARELY CARED ABOUT
HIS SURVIVAL.



BECAUSE I
KNEW HE
WOULD LIVE!



WHEN I TRIED TO MAKE MAGUS AMPLIFY
EDWARD'S RAGE SO HE WOULD MURDER ABRAHAM,
I FORGOT THAT EDWARD AND ADRIAN HAD BEEN
FRIENDS. THAT ADRIAN STILL CARED ABOUT HIM.



WHEN I TRIED TO
TURN TEDD'S FATHER
INTO A MURDERER.

I FORGOT
TEDD EVEN
EXISTED.

A TIME WILL COME AGAIN WHEN
I STOP CARING. IT IS INEVITABLE

IT IS.
TEMPORARY

I NEED
TO REGAIN
STABILITY

I AM NOT A MORTAL!
THIS IS NOT A CHEMICAL
IMBALANCE THAT CAN BE
MANAGED. OR A TRAUMA
TO BE COUNSELED!

THE ONLY WAY TO
REGAIN STABILITY IS A
TOTAL ABANDONMENT
OF SELF!

TO STOP CARING
ABOUT THOSE I'D
BE DOING IT FOR!

UNLESS IT'S NOT

IT IS.

NOT EVERYTHING I
THOUGHT I KNEW
ABOUT MY KIND
IS TRUE EGYPT
PROVED THAT

WHEN AN IMMORTAL
RESETS, IT'S USUALLY
INTENDED AS A FRESH
START AN ABANDONMENT
OF PRIOR ATTACHMENTS.

WHAT IF
THAT WASN'T
THE INTENT?

WHAT IF EMOTIONAL
ATTACHMENTS COULD
BE PASSED ON?

EVEN IF THEY CAN. I AM
THE ACCUMULATION OF MY
EXPERIENCES. I COULDN'T
PASS ON EVERYTHING.

BUT I WOULD STILL BE ME
WHERE IT MATTERS. I WOULD
STILL HAVE MY FAMILY

POWER IS NOT
WHAT THEY NEED
FROM ME

I WOULD STILL
BE DIFFERENT

THERE IS NO REDOING IT IF
IT FAILS, AND IF IT DID WORK, I
WOULD LOSE NEARLY ALL OF MY
POWER AND KNOWLEDGE!

I'VE BEEN
PREPARING TO
PASS ON WHAT'S
IMPORTANT TO MY
NEXT SELF FOR
YEARS NOW



TO MAKE SURE
ANY NEW ME
WOULD KNOW OF
HER FAMILY EVEN
IF SHE COULD
NOT LOVE THEM
AS I DO. BUT

MY FAMILY NEEDS ME,
NOT SOME REPLACEMENT
WITH A CHECKLIST



IF I RESET

NO. NOT A RESET A...
REFRESH. IF ANY IMMORTAL
CAN DO IT I CAN.

I WILL STAY AS I AM
NOW, HOWEVER LONG
I CAN... LONG ENOUGH
TO CLEAN UP THIS
MESS I'VE MADE ..

TO DESTROY
MY FAMILY'S
ENEMIES...



AND HOWEVER I MIGHT
CHANGE LATER, I WILL BE THERE
FOR THEM, AND FOR ME.

An hour or two journey
from Moperville...

RIGHT HERE WE GO.
STEP ONE SET FIRE
TO THE ORPHANAGE IN
MULTIPLE PLACES.

STEP TWO, WHILE
ALL EYES ARE ON
THE *BURNING*
ORPHANAGE. BREAK
OPEN THE ATM A
FEW BLOCKS FROM
HERE AND TAKE
ALL THE MONEY

STEP THREE, USE
THAT MONEY TO
BUY A SHOTGUN
AND AMMO. AND
THEN USE THAT TO
HOLD UP THE GUN
SHOP AND TAKE
ITS MONEY

STEP FOUR, STEAL
A SMALL ARMY OF
CHILDREN'S PUPPIES,
SPECIFICALLY
PUPPIES OWNED
AND LOVED BY
CHILDREN, TO
TRAIN AS MY OWN
PERSONAL ARMY OF
ATTACK DOGS.

You have one target, and two primary objectives.

Upon receiving my signal, you and your fellow aberrations are to loudly make your way to, and kill, the target. Property damage is encouraged, but not loss of life aside from the target.

The target's demise, and a distracting scene, are your goals.

There will be a 25% bonus if only the target is killed. If anyone who can summon magic weapons is present, they are an exception, and can be killed without negating this bonus.

There will be another 25% bonus if everyone I have hired survives, as I know there is little motive for aberrations to work together without such a thing.

Additional details follow.

DISGUSTING. THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS YOU COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO FEED ON PEOPLE'S ENERGY, BUT YOU JUST HAD TO TAKE IT LITERALLY.

LESS EVIDENCE, AND I GET ALL THEIR ENERGY.

DON'T TALK DOWN TO ME LIKE I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, WEAKLING.





OH
GOD IT'S
FRIDAY

WHY
IS IT
FRIDAY

IT'S
FINE. IT'S
PERFECTLY
FINE

SHE'S MORE
AFRAID OF YOU
THAN YOU ARE
OF HER

EXCEPT THAT'S BEARS, AND SHE'S
KILLED A VAMPIRE. SHE'S PROBABLY
WAY BRAVER THAN ME.

AND TALLER. SHE'S GOING
TO LOOM OVER ME.

LIKE A BEAR.

THIS ISN'T A BETRAYAL. YOU'RE JUST
MEETING SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE
YOUR BIOLOGICAL SISTER. YOUR FAMILY
WOULD WANT YOU TO MEET HER.

YOU JUST
HAVEN'T TOLD
THEM BECAUSE
OF THE
WEIRDNESS
WITH VAMPIRES
AND STUFF

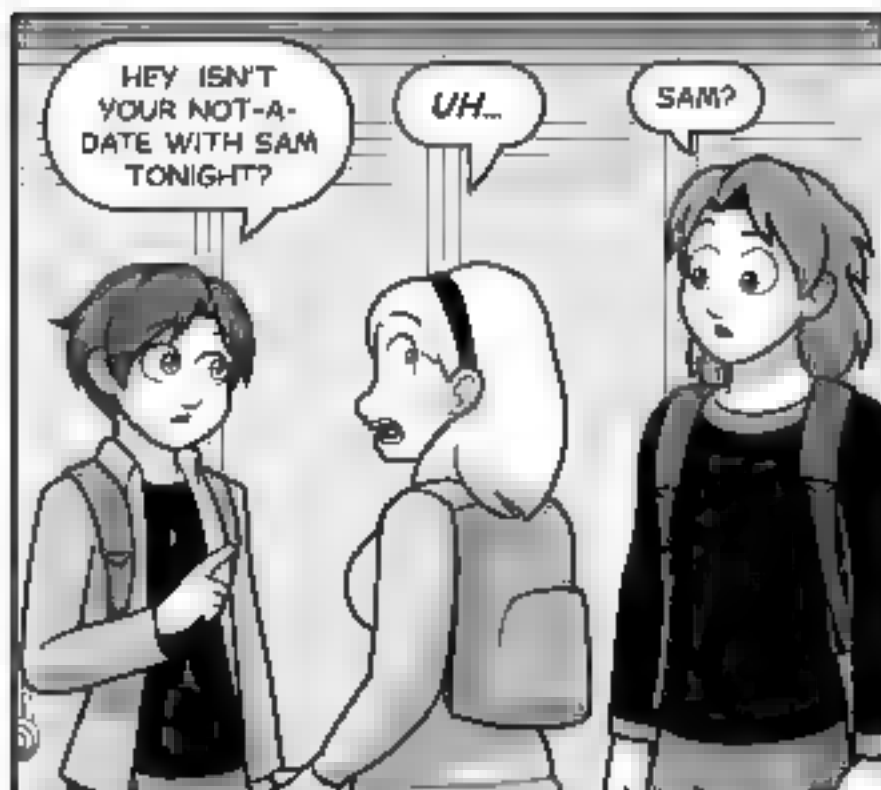
I SHOULD TELL
RHEA I LOVE
HER. BUT SHE'D
JUST THINK IT'S
WEIRD. BESIDES,
SHE KNOWS.
SHE TOTALLY
KNOWS' SHE'S
MY SISTER!

I WILL SLAP
HER UPSIDE
THE HEAD IF
SHE DOESN'T
KNOW THAT I
LOVE HER

~SIGH~

SUSAN'S
GOING TO
THINK I'M
PATHETIC.

CALM CALM
CALM RELAX
RELAX...



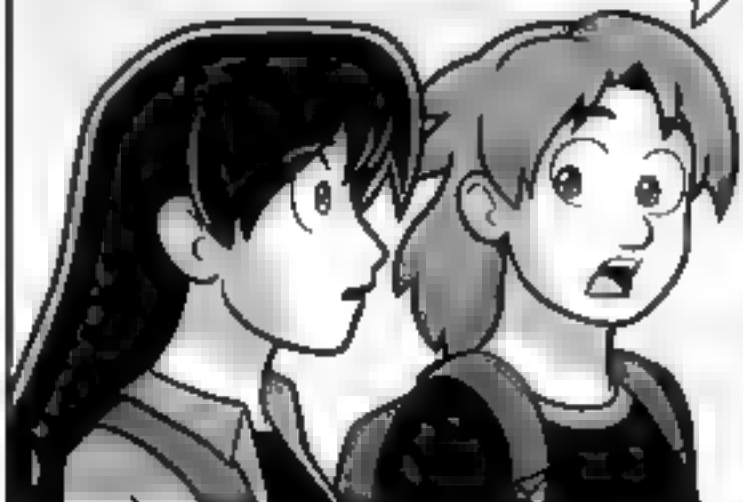






THAT'S... I'M
NOT SURE
WHAT TO MAKE
OF THAT

IT'S A BRAIN PUZZLER.
SHE DID TALK BACK TO A
TIGER GRIFFIN, THOUGH.
SHE'S DEFINITELY NOT
A GUFF TAKER.



SERIOUSLY
WHERE DID YOU
LEARN "GUFF"
FR.

**WET
FLOOR!**



EH?

WOW
THAT'S A
LOT OF
SPILLED
SODA.



THANKS
FOR THE...
WARNING?

DID SOMEONE JUST
DROP A FULL BOTTLE AND
NOT CLEAN IT UP?

THAT'S NOT COOL. IT'S
SLIPPERY AND STICKY! IT'S THE
WORST OF BOTH WORLDS!



DID
YOU SEE
WHO SAID
THAT?

NO. THEY MUST'VE BEEN
WALKING AWAY YOU GO ON
AHEAD. I'M GOING TO GET
SOME PAPER TOWELS!



YOU
CLUMSY
LITTLE

GOTTA KEEP HER SAFE CHECK
ON DIANE LATER. KEEP EVERY-
ONE NICE AND HAPPY



YOU WANT
TO JUST WATCH
A MOVIE AT YOUR
PLACE TONIGHT?

OOH. AH, I
THINK ELLIOT
MIGHT HAVE DIBS
ON THE ROOM
TONIGHT?

OH. WITH
ASHLEY?

YEAH I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT
WAS CERTAIN. THOUGH? ALSO,
MY PARENTS ARE GONNA BE
OUT TONIGHT SO WE COULD
TAKE THE DOWNSTAIRS TV

NO BEAN BAG. BUT
HEY BIGGER TV

I DON'T KNOW US
DOWNSTAIRS, ELLIOT
AND ASHLEY UPSTAIRS?
MIGHT BE WEIRD.

YOU'RE JUST
SAYING THAT
BECAUSE YOU FIND
ASHLEY'S NICENESS
SUSPICIOUS.

NO. I'M SAYING THAT BECAUSE
IT WOULD FEEL LIKE SOME SORT
OF WEIRD DOUBLE DATE WITH YOUR
BROTHER WHO IS ALSO MY EX

OH. I GUESS
THAT'S FAIR.

BUT SERIOUSLY, NO ONE
RESPECTS PRIVACY ENOUGH TO
NOT ASK TONS OF QUESTIONS
AFTER EVERYTHING SHE SAW
AND HEARD ON SATURDAY

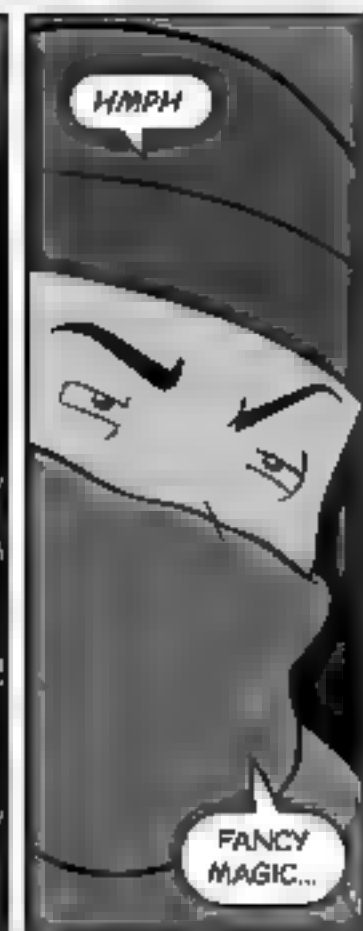
I REALLY
THINK SHE'S
JUST THAT
NICE.


TREACHEROUSLY NICE

MEANWHILE!


OH MY GOD I
SHOULD HAVE
RETURNED THIS
BOOK TO THE
LIBRARY
YESTERDAY!

SOMEONE
MIGHT HAVE
WANTED TO
CHECK THIS
OUT AND
COULDN'T
BECAUSE
OF ME!






NANASE! CAN YOU USE YOUR CAR TONIGHT?




I SHOULD BE ABLE TO. WHY?

IT TURNS OUT ELLIOT IS GOING OUT TONIGHT, BUT I JUST SAW SOMETHING ON CHARLOTTE'S FORUM ABOUT SOME SORT OF INHUMAN VOYEUR AT THE LOCAL COLLEGE. WANNA CHECK IT OUT?



PROBABLY SOME JERK IN A COSTUME... ALL THE MORE REASON TO STOP THEM, REALLY OKAY WHEN SHOULD I PICK YOU UP?

ELLIOT'S GONNA DROP ME OFF THAT WAY YOU CAN JUST GO STRAIGHT THERE. AND ELLIOT WILL FEEL LESS GUILTY ABOUT TAKING THE CAR.



HE DOES MORE IF HE THINKS HE'S INCONVENIENCED SOMEONE... OKAY WHEN DO YOU WANT TO MEET?

AROUND SIX?



SOUNDS GOOD.

GREAT! SEE YOU THERE!



UH... SURE?

SEE YOU THEN?

WE'VE ALREADY
ORCHESTRATED
ONE INCIDENT

WHY NOT
ANOTHER?

The office of Arthur, head of paranormal investigation

WE ARRANGED THE SIGHTING OF A
KNOWN QUANTITY IN ORDER TO PLACATE
EDWARD VERRES, AND WE WOULDN'T HAVE
DONE SO IF NOT FOR HIS KNACK FOR
PREVENTING APOCALYPTIC SCENARIOS

THAT
MAN IS
SPOILED.

YES SYBIL BUT AGAIN,
APOCALYPTIC SCENARIOS.
THE MAN'S EARNED IT.

AS FOR MAGIC CHANGING,
THE MOST WE CAN DO IS
NOT INTERFERE WITH A FEW
INCIDENTS TO PREVENT
MANY FUTURE ONES.

SURELY IT'S BETTER TO
ORCHESTRATE MAGIC'S CHANGE
THAN WAITING FOR A GENUINE
INCIDENT TO HAPPEN?

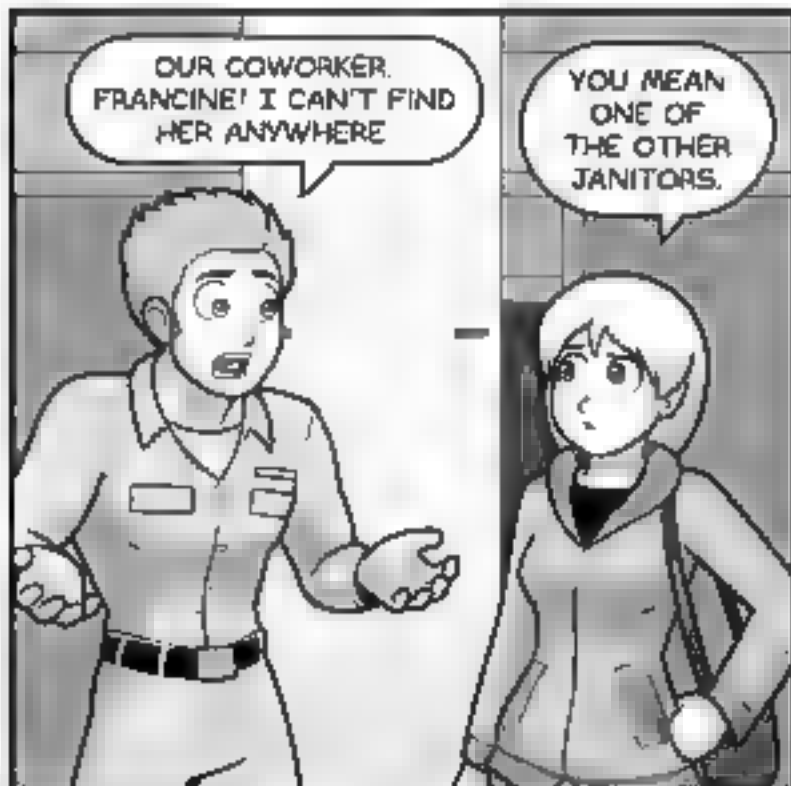
YOU WOULD HAVE
US FORCE THE
HAND OF A GOD?

I.. WAS NOT
AWARE WE WERE
DEALING WITH A
GOD, SIR.

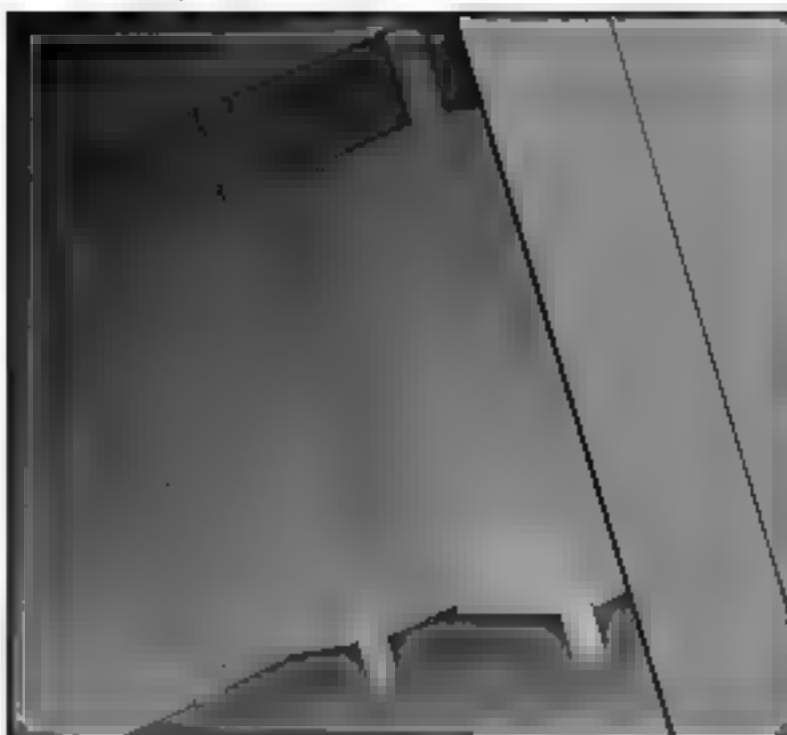
WHATEVER WE
CALL IT IT IS A
THINKING POWER
BEYOND OUR
COMPREHENSION.

WE WILL NOT
ATTEMPT TO
HOODWINK IT

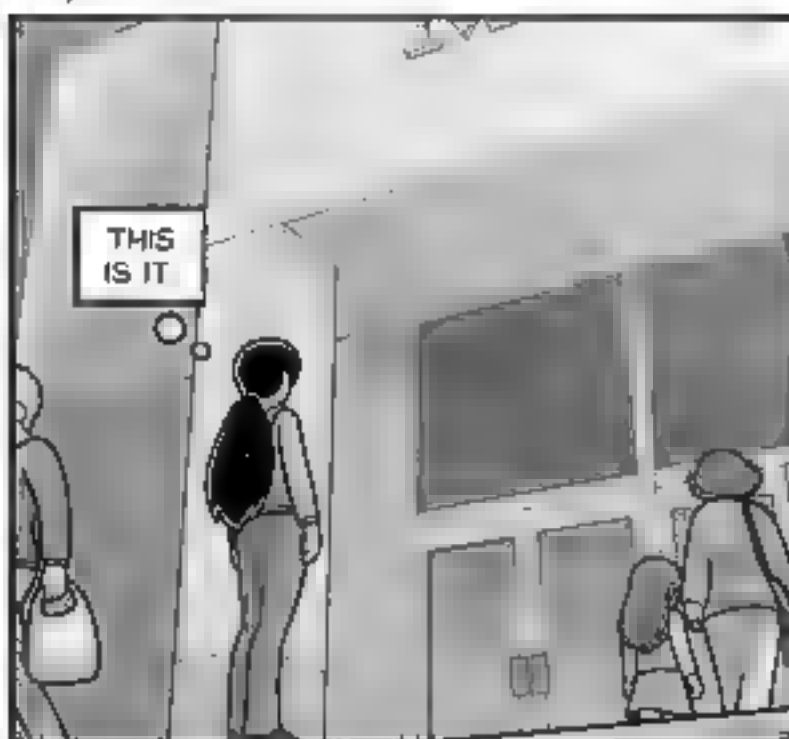
Moperville South, thirty minutes after school.



Meanwhile, in one of the women's bathrooms...



Moperville Mall





YOU REALLY DO SOUND LIKE ME... I MEAN, WE SOUND LIKE EACH OTHER.

IF YOU SAY SO.

RIGHT I GUESS YOU'RE NOT AS USED TO HEARING WHAT YOU SOUND LIKE.

AND T'S NOT LIKE WE'RE IDENTICAL. YOU'RE TALLER WITH BLACK HAIR.

ACTUALLY I USED TO HAVE BLONDE HAIR.

OH YOU DYE YOUR HAIR?

I USED TO. THEN IT CHANGED COLOR WHEN MY MAGIC AWAKENED.

IT CHANGED WHEN YOU GOT MAGIC? I THOUGHT IT CHANGED IF YOU LOST MAGIC.

IT DOESN'T USUALLY BUT IT WAS A BIT INTENSE WHEN I AWAKENED. AND MAGIC HAS A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC. MY HAIR BECAME THE COLOR I ALWAYS USED TO DYE IT.

MAGIC CHANGES HOW IT FUNCTIONS BASED ON DRAMA?

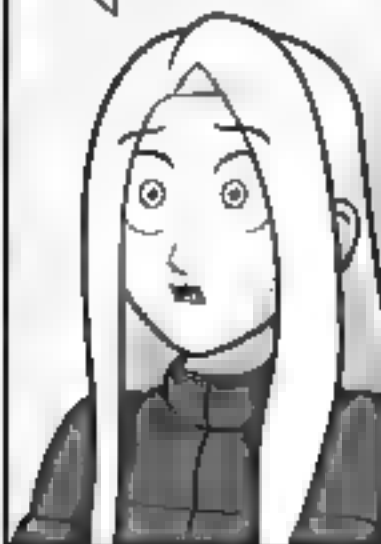
THERE IS AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT THEORY YES.

OF COURSE THERE IS.

THUMP



WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK? DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?



N-NO. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

IT'S ILLOGICAL

YOU'RE *CLEARLY* BOTHERED BY SOMETHING.

WHAT'S ILLOGICAL?



YOU PUT YOUR BACK UP AGAINST THE WALL.

IS SOMETHING ~~WRONG~~ WITH IT?



NO, NO, IT'S FINE PROBABLY IT'S JUST... YOUR BACK'S TOUCHING A WALL...



UH, YEAH? I DID THAT OUTSIDE, TOO.

SHUDDER



WAIT... ARE YOU A GERMAPHOBIC?

NO! IT'S NOT ABOUT GERMS, IT'S JUST... I KNOW IT'S NOT RATIONAL, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT'S BEEN ON THAT WALL?



WAY FEWER THINGS THAN HAVE BEEN ON THE CHAIRS IN THE FOOD COURT?

I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THAT



IT REALLY DOES
SOUND LIKE
YOU'RE AFRAID
OF GERMS.

IT'S NOT
THEY CAN BE
ON MY MIND,
BUT THAT'S
NOT THE REAL
PROBLEM!

IT'S MORE LIKE SOME OVERACTIVE SURVIVAL
INSTINCT KEEPS WARNING ME WHEN IT THINKS
SOMETHING MIGHT BE GROSS, OR TOXIC OR
DIRTY, OR CAUSE STAINS. OR... *SOMETHING*.

(Symbolism,
Mind you)

IT'S LIKE AN ITCH I NEED TO SCRATCH, SO I
SANITIZE MY HANDS, OR CHANGE CLOTHES, OR
WHATEVER WILL MAKE MY BRAIN SHUT UP!

WOW THAT... SOUNDS
LIKE AN ALLERGY, BUT
WITH YOUR MIND
OVERREACTING INSTEAD
OF YOUR BODY

SHE MOVED
FROM THE
WALL... AND
THAT...

THAT WAS
THE PERFECT
ANALOGY

*SHE
UNDERSTANDS!*

I WANT TO
HUG HER, BUT
I ONLY JUST
MET HER!

AND I DON'T
LIKE BEING
TOUCHED!

AND SHE'S
BEEN PUTTING
HER BACK UP
AGAINST
WALLS!

FINE! FINE
FINE AND GOOD,
AND HUNGRY

TO FOOD!
FOOD IS
LOGICAL.

ARE YOU
OKAY?

MR. RAVEN! HI!

YOU KNOW
DIANE'S MY
FIRST NAME
RIGHT?

MR. RAVEN? THE
HALF-IMMORTAL
HISTORY TEACHER
WHO HELPED
PROTECT ELLEN?

WHOM I'VE NEVER SEEN
BEFORE. SO THAT DOESN'T
EXPLAIN WHY I'M GETTING A
FAMILIARITY VIBE FROM HIM...

HELLO I AM
SUSAN. A
PLEASURE TO
MEET YOU.

THE LION.

MY GOODNESS
PARDON ME. BUT
ARE YOU TWO.

WE DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY
WHAT WE ARE TO EACH
OTHER BEYOND FRIENDS...

FRIENDS
ALREADY?!

...BUT YES. THE
RESEMBLANCE IS
UNCANNY

THE RESEMBLANCE
IS UNCANNY...

AND YET I FEEL THERE'S A
REASON OTHER THAN DIANE
THAT SHE LOOKS FAMILIAR...

NOW HE'S GOT
A LION VIBE? I'M
TRAPPED IN A
LION'S DEN!

AND WHY DO I
HAVE LIONS ON
THE BRAIN?!

SUSAN. SHE'S NOT AS INTIMIDATING AS I THOUGHT SHE'D BE AND YET

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S WHO SHE MIGHT BE TO ME, OR WHAT BUT...

I JUST KNOW THERE'S A LION BENEATH THE SURFACE

HOW SHOULD I FEEL RIGHT NOW I'VE NO IDEA WHO THIS WOMAN IS TO ME AND I JUST BONDED WITH HER IN AN EXTREMELY PERSONAL WAY AND.

HM?

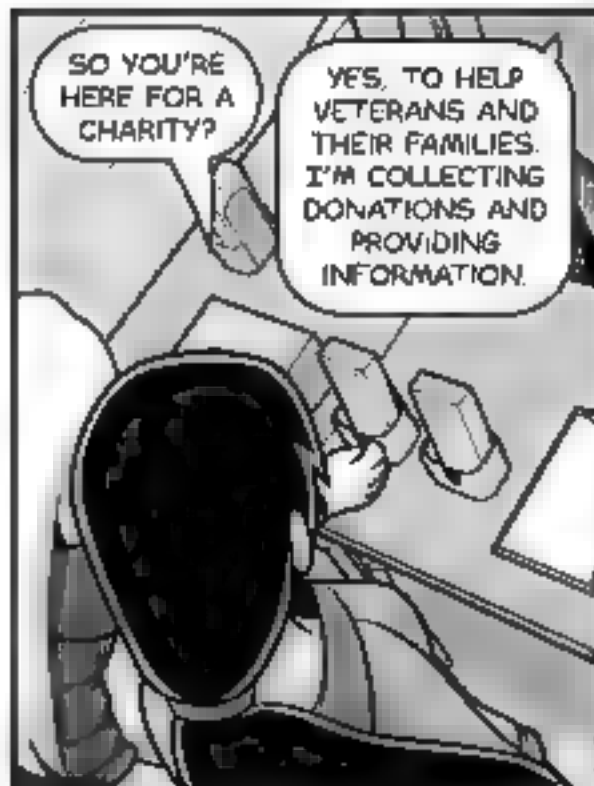
THAT MAN...

DO I KNOW THAT MAN?

SUSAN? IS SOMETHING.

GAH!

MISS DIANE?



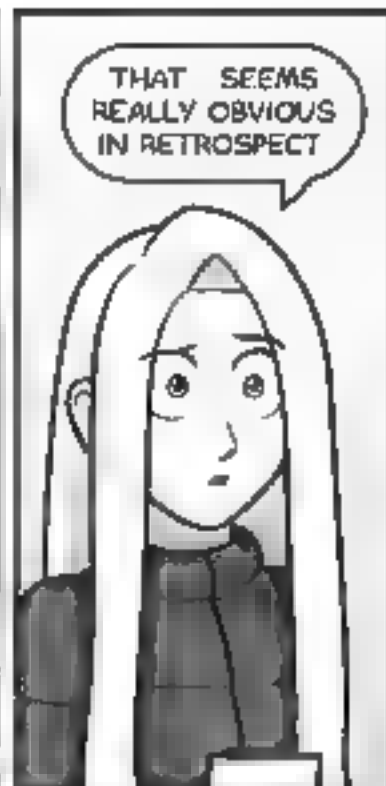
SO YOU'RE
HERE FOR A
CHARITY?

YES, TO HELP
VETERANS AND
THEIR FAMILIES.
I'M COLLECTING
DONATIONS AND
PROVIDING
INFORMATION.



"THE TROUBLE WITH FIRE
WORKS"? I THOUGHT VETERANS
WOULD LIKE FIREWORKS. YOU
KNOW BECAUSE PATRIOTISM.

THERE ARE VETERANS WITH
PTSD WHO WOULD DO BETTER
WITHOUT HEARING EXPLOSIONS.



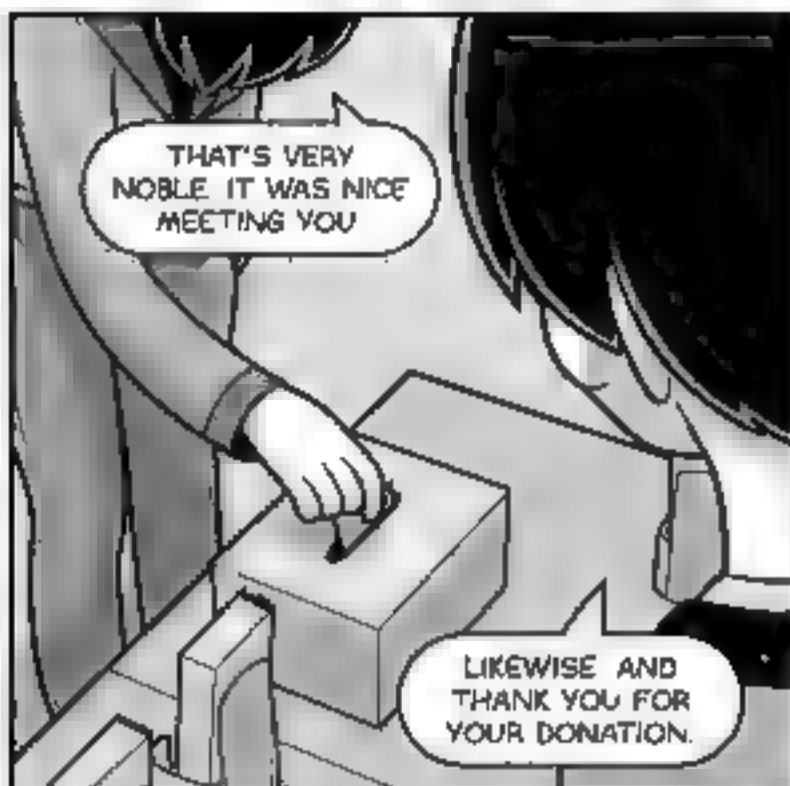
THAT SEEMS
REALLY OBVIOUS
IN RETROSPECT



ARE YOU A
VETERAN?

I HAVE A CONDITION THAT'S
KEPT ME FROM SERVING.

I DO MY BEST
TO CONTRIBUTE
IN THIS WAY



THAT'S VERY
NOBLE IT WAS NICE
MEETING YOU

LIKEWISE AND
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR DONATION.



THIS IS VERY ODD. NOT ONLY DOES
SUSAN SEEM ODDLY FAMILIAR, BUT I
CAN PASSIVELY SENSE HER POWER
AS AN AWAKENED MAGIC USER.

I SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO
SENSE THAT WITHOUT EFFORT
WHILE IN THIS AGED FORM.



THAT CHARITY MUST BE WHY HE
SEEMED FAMILIAR. HE'S PROBABLY BEEN
DOING THAT FOR DECADES. OF COURSE
I'VE SEEN HIM AROUND BEFORE

FOCUS, SUSAN.



I..

I DON'T HAVE CASH ON ME.



WHAT?

I JUST HAVE A CARD, SO. THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T YOU KNOW..



I DON'T THINK LESS OF PEOPLE FOR NOT GIVING TO EVERY CHARITY THEY COME ACROSS.

ESPECIALLY AT OUR AGES ..AGE.

BESIDES, IT'S SMART TO RESEARCH CHARITIES FIRST



EXCUSE ME, HELLO! DONATE TO THE SAVE THE AMERICAN KANGAROO FOUNDATION? JUST FIVE DOLLARS PAYS FOR A POUCH FRESHENER!

NO GO AWAY



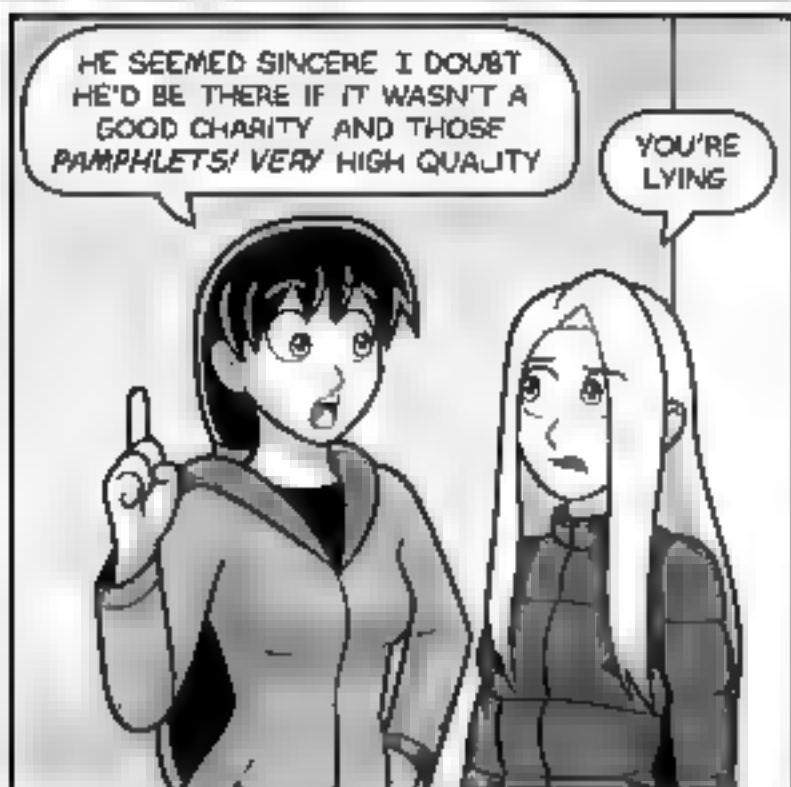
IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU KEEPING OUR FIELDS FROM BEING LUSH WITH MARSUPIALS!

SO WHY'D YOU DONATE TO THAT CHARITY WITHOUT LOOKING INTO IT FIRST?



I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRUST DIANE BUT NOW *MIGHT NOT BE* THE BEST TIME TO SAY "BECAUSE RAVEN FOUGHT A WIZARD TO PROTECT ELLEN"

BESIDES, IT'S NOT MY SECRET TO TELL



HE SEEMED SINCERE I DOUBT HE'D BE THERE IF IT WASN'T A GOOD CHARITY AND THOSE PAMPHLETS! VERY HIGH QUALITY

YOU'RE LYING

WHAT I JUST SAID WAS
TECHNICALLY TRUE.

THAT S... YOU
PICKED UP ON
ALL OF THAT?

IT WAS
OBVIOUS?

MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T HAVE
NOTICED ALL THAT

MOST PEOPLE NEED
TO PAY ATTENTION.

SOMETHING ABOUT HIM
CONFUSED YOU, BUT THEN YOU
WENT ON GUARD AFTER I SAID
HIS NAME THAT DONATION HAD
PERSONAL MEANING TO YOU

OKAY FINE. HE LOOKED FAMILIAR FOR SOME
REASON THAT I *GENUINELY* DON'T KNOW
AND I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM FROM FRIENDS. I
DIDN'T WANT TO GET INTO *WHY* BECAUSE IT
INVOLVES OTHER PEOPLE'S PERSONAL...

WHAT

SOMETHING HAPPENED
WITH RAVEN, NANASE AND
ELLEN LAST YEAR NANASE'S
HAIR WAS DIFFERENT
RIGHT AFTER IT...

HE FOUGHT AN INTRUDER
IN THE SCHOOL LAST YEAR!

AND RAVEN GOT REALLY HURT
AND WAS BACK TEACHING WAY TOO
QUICKLY... WHAT IS HE A WIZARD?

UH...

THAT EXPLAINS SO MUCH! I
HEARD DOORS WERE STUCK SHUT..
IT WAS A LOCKDOWN! RAVEN DID
THAT SOMEHOW DIDN'T HE?

YOU ARE
REMARKABLY
BRILLIANT

I, UH..
TH- THANK
YOU.

YOU'RE
STILL
BUSTED.

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY POINT IN TRYING TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU BUT THIS ISN'T THE BEST PLACE TO DISCUSS..

LIKE, OYNG!

A STAMPEDE OF YOUNG DISTRACTED TEENS ON CELL PHONES!

FOR REALS!

TOTES!

THINGS ADULTS THINK TEENS SAY!

STEP STEP STEP STEP
STEP STEP STEP STEP

DODGE

DODGE

DODGE

DODGE

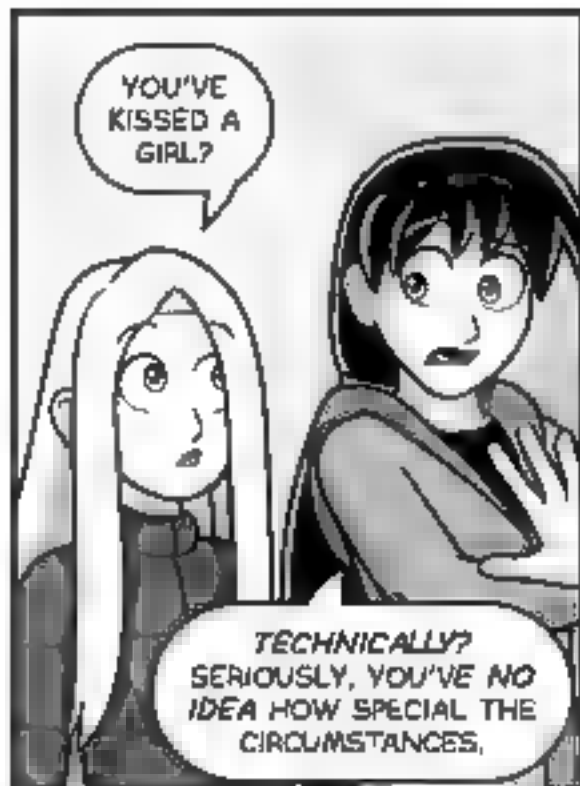
DODGED.

ARE. ARE YOU A DANCER?

UH. NO. I.. I JUST GO TO A CROWDED SCHOOL AND HATE BEING TOUCHED.

WHAT













SLAM

SOME-
ONE'S
HOME.

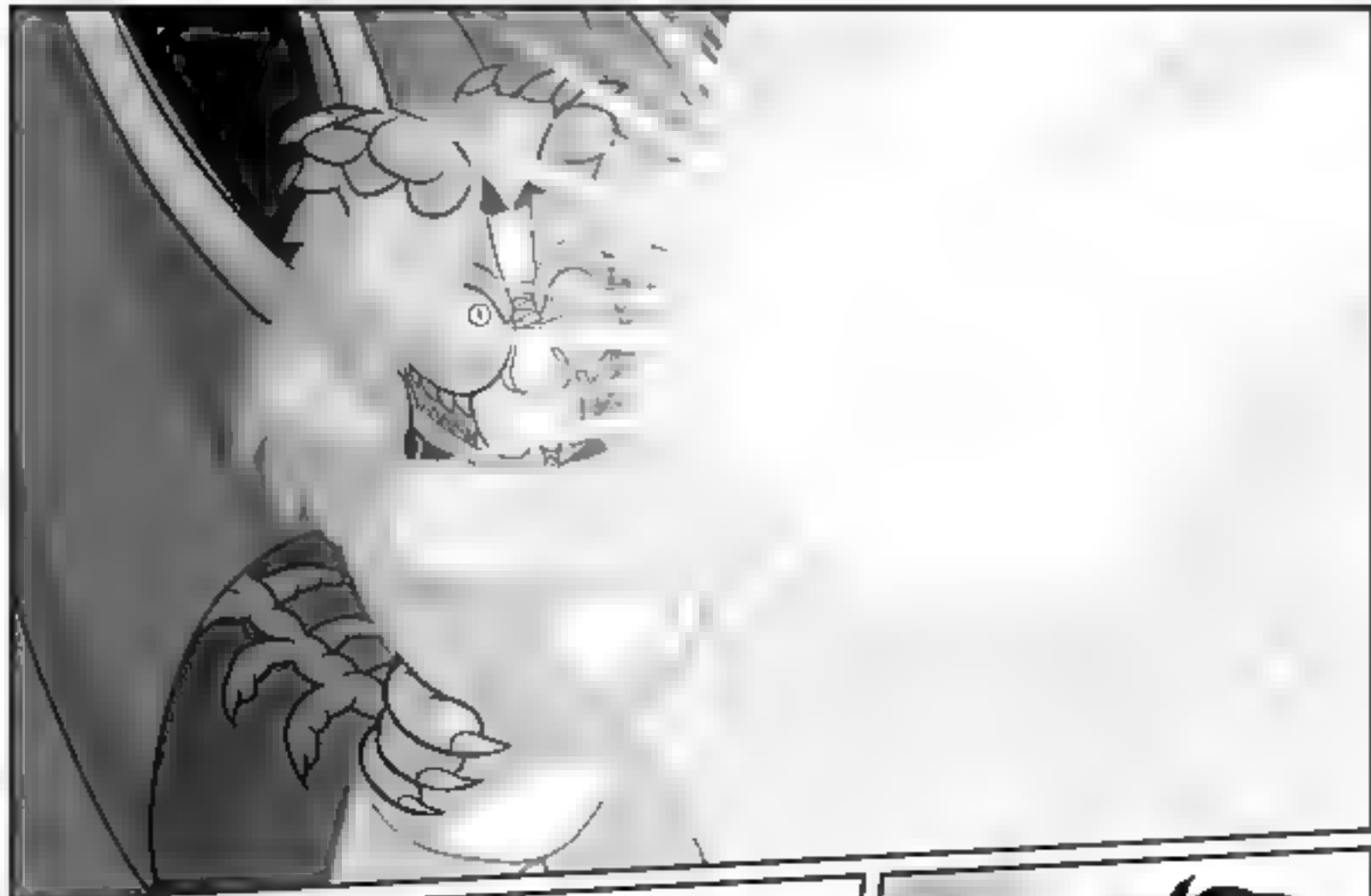
ELLIOT!

ELLEN?

CAN YOU COME
DOWNSTAIRS FOR
A SECOND?

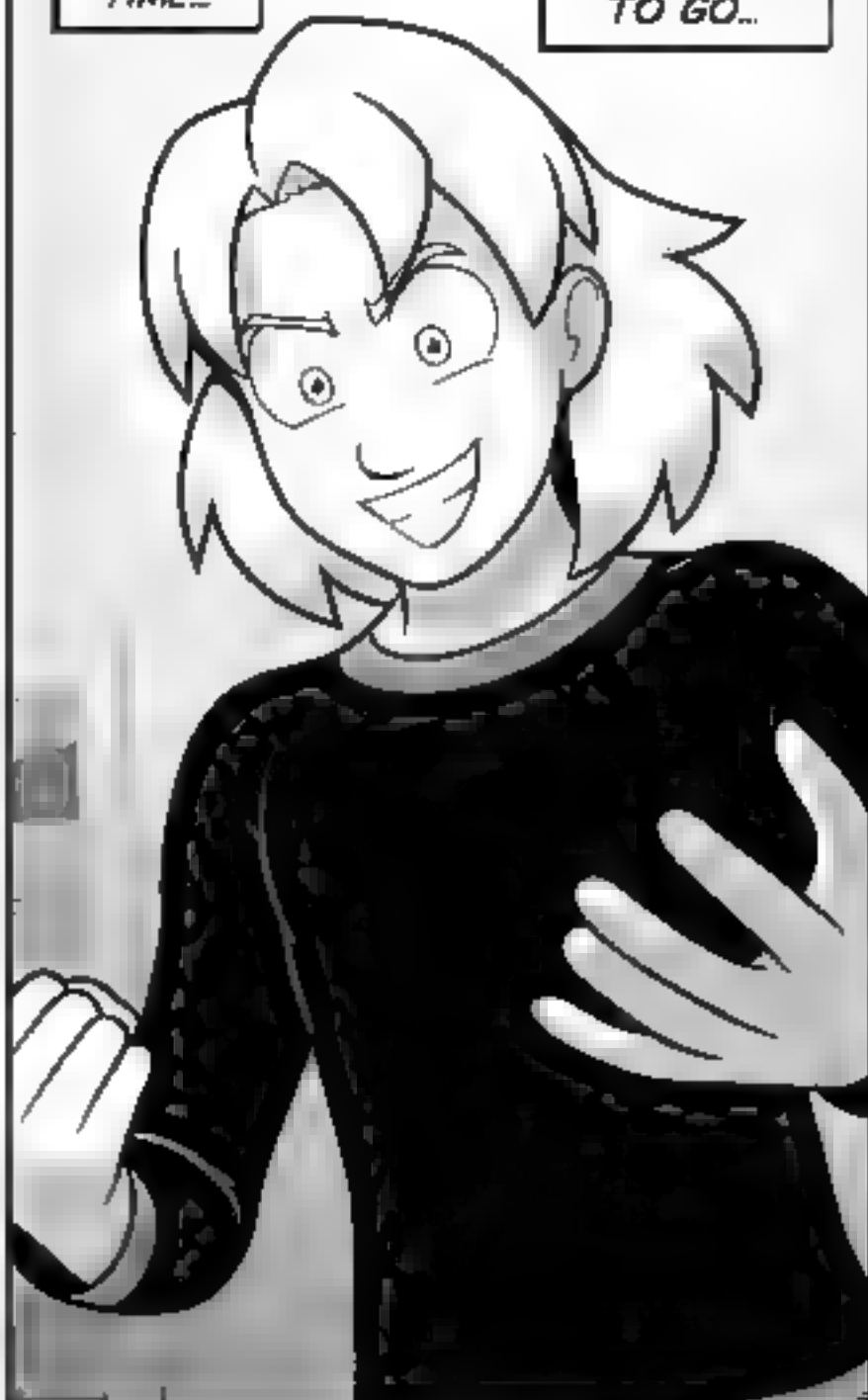
YEAH!
IS SOME
THING--

ZZZ-



AFTER
ALL THIS
TIME...

JUST ONE
MORE STEP
TO GO...



ELLIOT?!



Sleep

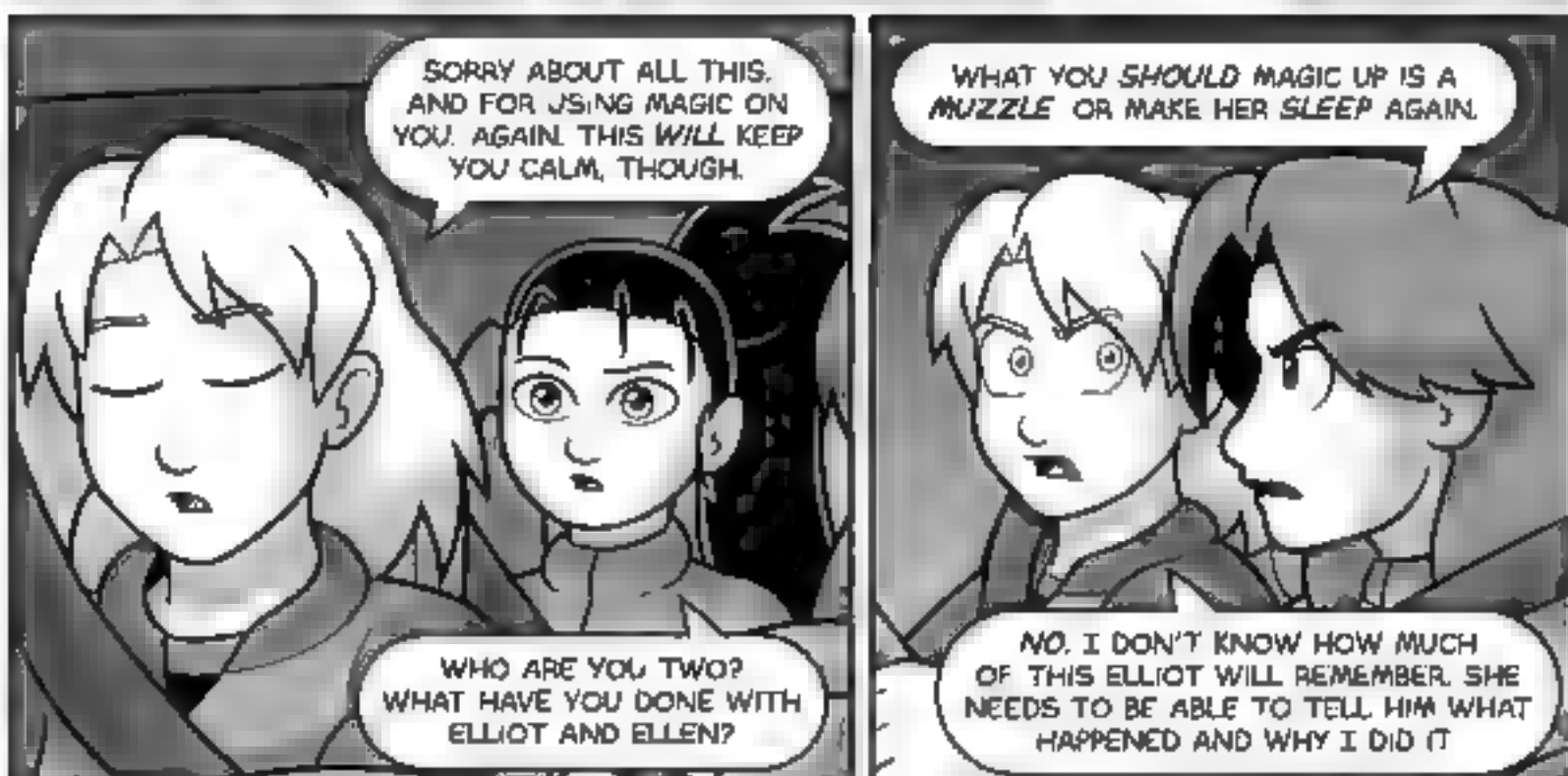
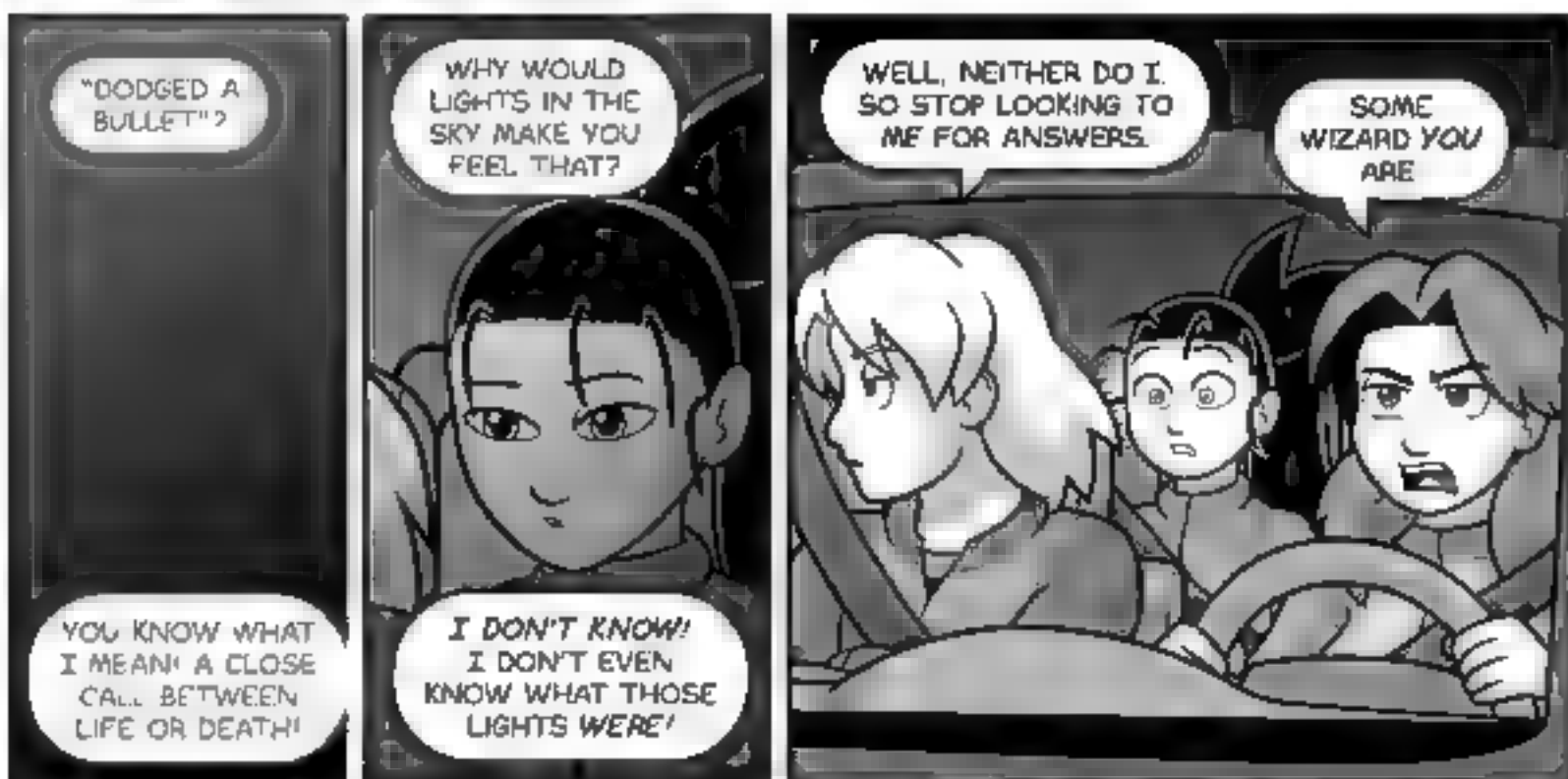


DO NOT WORRY



YOUR FRIENDS
WILL BE OKAY





ELLEN IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF AN ABERRATION, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS A VAMPIRE. ELLEN WILL BE IN A DEEP SLEEP FOR A FEW HOURS AFTER HE RELEASES HER, BUT SHE WILL BE OKAY

WHICH, GIVEN HER POWERFUL FRIENDS AND FAMILY I'M QUITE THANK-

SWERVE WHOOSH

THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT?!

I. I AVOIDED A RACCOON?

I'M SURPRISED YOU'D CARE ABOUT A RACCOON

I DON'T, BUT I'M USING SOMEONE ELSE'S MUSCLE MEMORY AREN'T I?!

ANYWAY HE TOOK CONTROL OF A SCHOOL CUSTODIAN, AND USED HER TO GET TO ELLEN, AND TO CONVINCE NANASE TO BE SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY TONIGHT


BECAUSE NANASE COULD USE PRINCESS POWER TO KICK BOTH YOUR BUTTS AND FREE ELLIOT AND ELLEN?

PRINCESS ? NO. TO KEEP HER OUT OF THE WAY AND SAFE I'M MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN HER.

HOW IS THAT ANYWAY? DOESN'T YOUR UNIVERSE HAVE DIFFERENT RULES FOR MAGIC? HOW IS IT STILL WORKING FOR YOU?

I COULD NO MORE ANSWER THAT THAN YOU COULD ANSWER HOW THIS CAR WORKS.

I KNOW HOW CARS WORK.



AS FOR ME.. I GUESS YOU COULD CALL ME AN "ELLIOT" FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE?

AN A.U. ELLIOT?

SURE, WHATEVER. ANYWAY, I'M FROM A UNIVERSE WHERE MAGIC IS COMMONPLACE. I WAS IN SCHOOL LEARNING TO BE A BATTLE MAGE.

IN SCHOOL.

YES.


SPECIFICALLY LEARNING TO BE A "BATTLE" MAGE.

YOU HAVE TORNADO SIRENS. WE HAVE DRAGON SIRENS. YOU DON'T GET A WORLD WITH THAT MUCH MAGIC WITHOUT MONSTERS.

WHILE IN A TRAINING MATCH WITH... *SIGH* A.U. TEDD, I SUPPOSE, I USED A TOOL TO CONSERVE MY OWN MAGIC POWER THAT *SHOULD* HAVE CREATED A DEFENSIVE SHIELD.

IT HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH. I WAS IMPROPERLY FORCED INTO THIS WORLD, TRAPPED IN A SORT OF SPIRIT PLANE.

THERE MY ONLY COMPANY WAS IMMORTALS WHO COULDN'T HIDE YET, OR WOULD ALLOW ME TO NOTICE THEM.



IN MY NOT QUITE PHYSICAL STATE.

NONE OF THEIR "EMPOWER AND GUIDE" RULES APPLIED.

THE FIRST FEW I MET TRIED TO KILL OR TORTURE ME FOR SPORT, FOR "BALANCE" WHATEVER EXCUSES THEY HAD.

THE ONLY "PEOPLE" I COULD ASK FOR HELP WERE LIKE MERMAIDS IN CHUMMED WATER.



CREATE ELLEN? SHE'S NOT
ELLIOT'S TWIN SISTER?



...YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT
ELLEN IS A FEMALE DUPLICATE
OF ELLIOT CREATED BY THE
DEWITCHERY DIAMOND?

WE'VE BEEN
ON ONE DATE



OH, UH... WELL, THEY ARE
SIBLINGS.. SORT OF PLEASE
DON'T LET THIS DISSUADE YOU
FROM PURSUING.. BLOODY LIST
OF THINGS TO ATONE FOR KEEPS
GETTING BIGGER

ANYWAY THANKS TO THAT
IMMORTAL COERCING OUR
VAMPIRE "FRIEND" HERE INTO
BRIBING A SECURITY GUARD
THAT RIDICULOUS PART OF THE
PLAN ACTUALLY WORKED..



...AND ELLEN HAD THE ABILITY
TO SHOOT A PROPER SPELL
VERSION OF THE TF GUN BEAM
I COULD USE AS A CONDUIT

ALL I NEEDED WAS TO WAIT
FOR ELLEN TO WANT TO ZAP
ELLIOT FOR SOME REASON
AMPLIFY HER INTO DOING IT
AND GET BETWEEN THEM.



SHE NEVER WANTED TO
WHEN I WAS AROUND
BOTH OF THEM, HOWEVER,
AND I HAD VERY FEW
CHANCES TO TRY

WELL BEFORE I GOT TEDD TO
ZAP ELLIOT TWO IMMORTALS IN
PARTICULAR KEPT COMING AFTER ME,
TELLING ME "I DIDN'T BELONG HERE"
AND "MY TIME WAS ALREADY OVER"



I EVEN FOLLOWED NANASE TO PARIS TO GET
AWAY FROM THEM LONG ENOUGH TO FORGET
ABOUT ME BUT THEY FOLLOWED ME THERE!

FORTUNATELY, THEY GOT SIDETRACKED BY WHAT
I LATER LEARNED TO BE VAMPIRE SLAYING, AND
SOMETHING MADE THEM RESET IMPROPERLY



UNFORTUNATELY, THEY CAME BACK. AND THEY
KEPT CLOSE TO ELLIOT FOR SOME REASON. I
BARELY MANAGED GETTING ELLIOT TO THE
DIAMOND. AND THE REST PROVED IMPOSSIBLE

SO YOU WENT INTO HIDING TEAMED UP
WITH A BODY SNATCHING VAMPIRE AND GOT
HIM TO SEND VAMPIRES TO MOPERVILLE TO
TRY AND DISTRACT THE IMMORTALS.



LONG STORY
SHORT? YES.

I ASSUME THAT'S
ALSO ON YOUR LIST

I'VE SPENT YEARS IN A TERRIBLE SITUATION WITH ONE WAY OUT...

AND VAMPIRES CHOSE TO BECOME UNCARING MONSTERS WHO HAVE TO KILL PEOPLE TO PROLONG THEIR PARASITIC LIVES!

NOT ALL VAMPIRES. THE MAN I USED TO BE JUSTIFIED HIS CHOICE BY THINKING HE COULD JUST BODY SNATCH ONE PERSON WHO DESERVED IT FOR YEARS AT A TIME

I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT NOW BUT I'D SAY IT WORKED OUT

POINT IS, VAMPIRES WILL KILL WHEREVER THEY ARE AND MOPERVILLE IS LOADED WITH PEOPLE WHO CAN TAKE THEM OUT

I WASN'T JUST DISTRACTING IMMORTALS.

I WAS SENDING VAMPIRES TO THEIR DEATH.

THAT DOES SEEM TO BE THE CASE

SO... IF YOU DID THIS TONIGHT YOU SET UP ANOTHER DISTRACTION? MORE VAMPIRES?

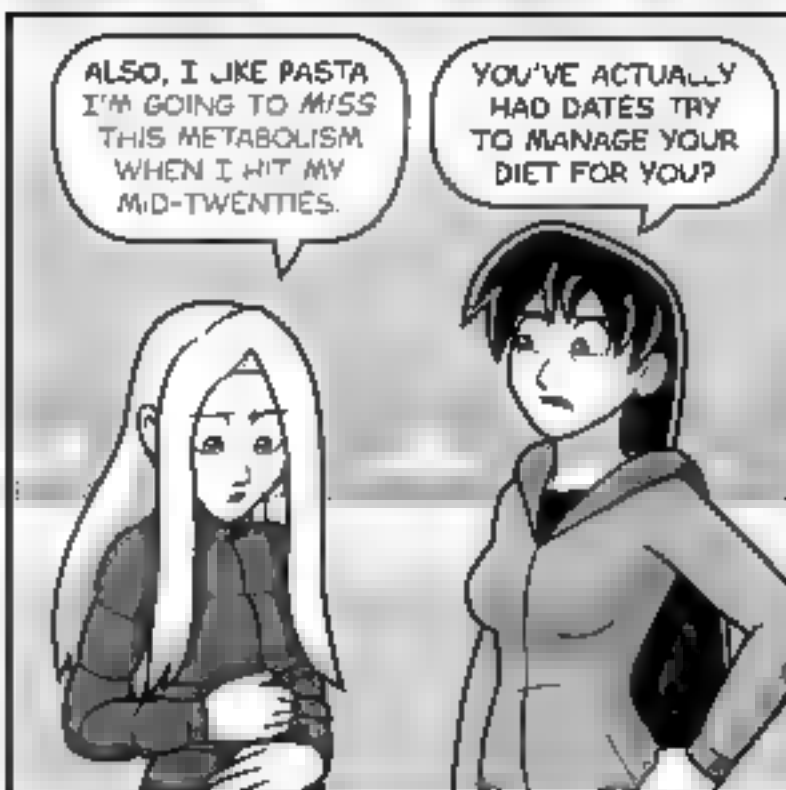
WE SENT A COUPLE AFTER A HALF IMMORTAL WIZARD WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT GAVE THE WIZARD A CHANCE TO STRIKE BEFORE ANYONE GOT HURT

THOSE VAMPIRES ARE DEAD BY NOW, AND THE WORST THEY'LL HAVE DONE IS PROPERTY DAMAGE

THAT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE TRUE...

...IF I HADN'T ACTUALLY HIRED **SIX.**







Susan's magic Awakening was an unusual one



Fueled by rage, power surged through and around her

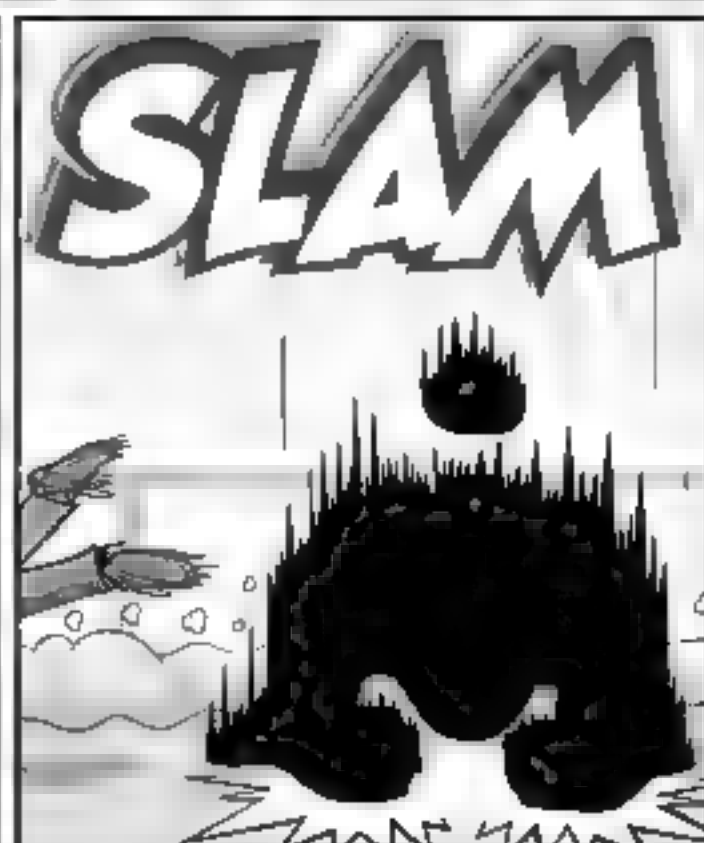
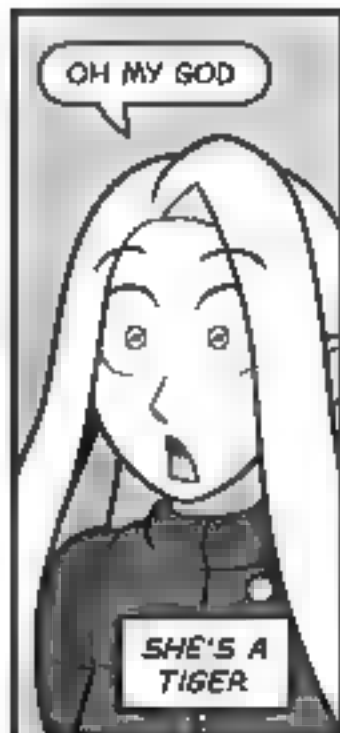


Whether it was Magic's flair for the dramatic or something else, I do not know, but Susan's hair didn't just become black.

It became a reservoir of hidden magic power, one I expect Susan will call upon instinctively if in real danger supercharging her physically and magically



Knowing magic, visual nonsense of some kind will accompany it





THE ACTUAL TARGET APPROACHES...



Earlier

WE COULD LOSE ONE OF OUR BONUSES IF WE DEAL WITH THE HUNTERS WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE

LET THEM ATTACK FIRST LET PEOPLE SEE THEM DO SOMETHING FANCY

THAT WILL KEEP OUR EMPLOYER FROM TRYING TO PULL ANYTHING



MIGHT LOSE THE OTHER BONUS THAT WAY

HAVE YOU SEEN THE OTHERS? THE ODDS NEVER FAVORED IT



STILL WANT IT AND THE ACTUAL TARGET?

BEST CHANCE FOR THE "WE ALL LIVED" BONUS?

LEAVE HIM TO ME



TIME TO GO.

YOUR LUCKY DAY, SHEILA. I HOPE ONE OF THE OTHERS GETS...



THWACK

THROWABLE STUN HAMMER!



GYLIGH...

Y-YOU AND... THE FACE...







HOW COULD RAVEN **NOT** KNOW IF HE HAD KIDS?!

IF YOU'RE RIGHT, HOW MUCH OF THIS IS GUESSWORK?

EDUCATED GUESSWORK BASED ON HOW PANDORA'S ACTING, AND HOW OLD SHE'S GOTTA BE TO BE THAT POWERFUL

YOU KIDDING? **HUMAN** MEN WHO **KNEW** THE RISKS HAVE MANAGED IT! IF I'M RIGHT, RAVEN'S EFFECTIVELY BEEN AN IGNORANT MAN STUCK IN HIS EARLY TWENTIES FOR **MULTIPLE** LIFETIMES!

SHE'S POWERFUL?

YOU'VE NO IDEA. THE ONLY REASON SHE HASN'T KILLED THE VAMPS HERSELF IS BECAUSE IMMORTAL LAW FORBIDS IT.

IF SHE BREAKS IT, WE'LL KNOW WHAT SHE DID, **WHY** SHE DID IT, AND ENERGY FROM **ALL OF US** WILL FORCE HER TO RESET.

NOT EVEN **SHE'S** POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DEFEND AGAINST AN ATTACK FROM EVERY OTHER IMMORTAL ON EARTH.

YOU'D PUNISH HER FOR SAVING PEOPLE?!

WAIT, IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN WAVING YOUR ARMS AROUND WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING ME? YOU CAN'T PHYSICALLY STOP ME FROM GOING ANYWHERE?

LUCKY FOR YOU, I DON'T WANT PANDORA TO DO ANYTHING STUPID TO PROTECT ME, SO I'M NOT GOING OUT THERE.

HEY, IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT WE WANT TO DO! IT'S **AUTOMATIC**! OLDER VERSIONS OF US AGREED ON **STUPID** LAWS, AND THAT'S HOW IT IS NOW! DON'T BLAME ME!

UH...

YOU'RE NOT?

...JUST AS I PLANNED.

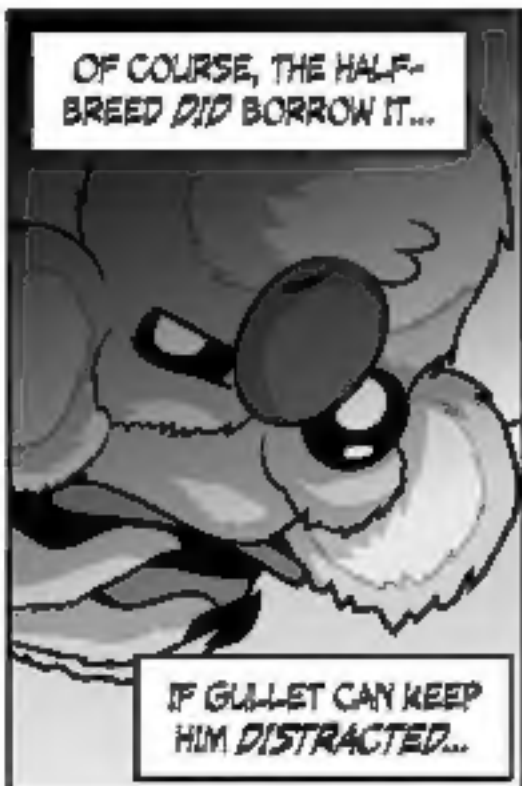


I'M STARTING
TO THINK RAVEN'S
GOT THIS.



THAT SWORD GIVES HIM
TOO MUCH OF AN EDGE.

SCARF'S METHODS DRAW THE WRONG
SORT OF ATTENTION, BUT HE'S THE
ONLY ONE WITH A REAL CHANCE
AGAINST RAVEN AND THAT SWORD.

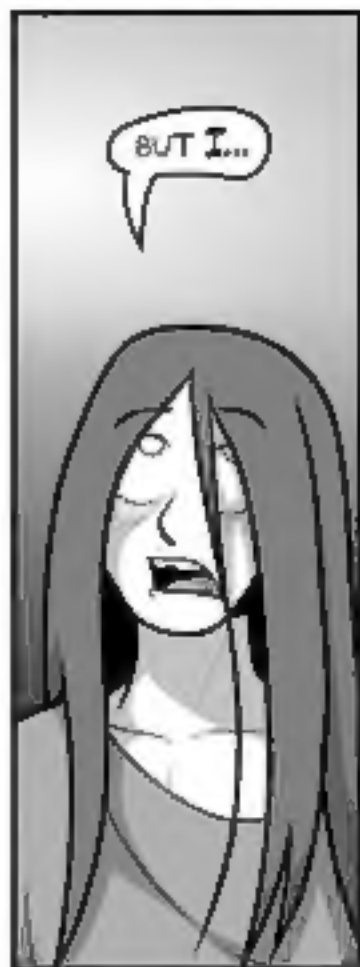


OF COURSE, THE HALF-
BREED *DID* BORROW IT...

IF GULLET CAN KEEP
HIM *DISTRACTED*...



KILLED THE
WEAK. HAVE
YOU?



BUT I...



AM NOT...



WEAK!

